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Significant steps

Trump confirms secret meeting between CIA director Pompeo and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the highest-level contact between the countries in nearly 2 decades

By SHANE HARRIS, CAROL D. LEONNIG,
GREG JAFFE AND DAVID NAKAMURA
The Washington Post

CIA Director Mike Pompeo made a top-secret visit to North Korea as an envoy for President Donald Trump to meet with Kim Jong Un, and plans for a possible summit between the leaders are underway, Trump confirmed Wednesday.

The extraordinary meeting between one of Trump's most trusted emissaries and the authoritarian head of a rogue state was part of an effort to lay the groundwork for direct talks between Trump and Kim about

■ 3 core issues facing US, North Korea before summit

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North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

The clandestine mission came late last month, soon after Pompeo was nominated to be secretary of state. The Pompeo mission was first reported Tuesday by The Washington Post, citing two people with direct knowledge of the trip.

On Wednesday, Trump acknowledged the outreach and said "a good relationship was formed" that could lead to a landmark meeting between the president and Kim.

"Mike Pompeo met with Kim Jong Un in North Korea last week," Trump tweeted. "Meeting went very smoothly and a good relationship was formed. Details of Summit are being worked out now. Denuclearization will be a great thing for World, but also for North Korea!"

SEE STEPS ON PAGE 12

People watch a TV screen showing file footage of CIA Director Mike Pompeo, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday.

ANN YOUNG-JOON/AP

MILITARY

Navy launches new command unit in Pacific

By TYLER HLAIVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has formally launched a new unit that will oversee maintenance, training and certification for its ships in the Pacific.

The service issued a statement Tuesday announcing the establishment of Naval Surface Group Western Pacific, which was stood up as a detachment in October but became a permanent command based out of Yokosuka, home of the Navy's 7th Fleet, on April 11.

"This new command will manage ship activities in the maintenance and basic phase, enforce the readiness assessment and certification process within those phases and closely coordinate with the ship's operational commander until a ship is certified Basic Phase Complete by [the group]," the statement said.

Surface Forces commander Vice Adm. Richard Brown touted the benefits of the group last week during his first visit to Japan since assuming the position in January.

The 7th Fleet is making progress on addressing readiness issues, Brown told Stars and Stripes in an interview. As Surface Forces

commander, Brown also serves as the Navy's senior surface warfare officer — also known as the "SWO Boss" — which gives him the authority to make broad changes to some operating procedures and training aboard ships.

The fleet was shaken last year by a pair of deadly collisions involving the USS McCain and the USS Fitzgerald that killed 17 sailors. Several Navy leaders — including Brown's predecessor, Vice Adm. Thomas Rowden — were either relieved of their duties or forced into early retirement in the wake of the accidents.

Manning shortages and training and certification issues were cited as being among factors that led to the collisions.

Brown said Naval Surface Group Western Pacific will be a key part of addressing readiness problems.

A comprehensive review released last year by Fleet Forces Command said the unit would serve as the "immediate superior in command administrative headquarters responsible for maintaining, training and certifying [Forward Deployed Naval Force] Japan ships."

Brown, who is based in San Diego, said the group's com-



COLT SCHROEDER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee, right, leads the USS Stethem and the USS Sampson while transiting the Western Pacific last November.

mander, Capt. Rich Dromerhauser, serves as his on-the-ground representative in Yokosuka.

"He's my avatar," Brown said. "The same stuff I do in San Diego for the Pacific Fleet in the man, train and equip realm, he is my avatar here in Yokosuka."

The new unit has faced some criticism from within the Navy. A Strategic Readiness Review released last year said the new group will create unnecessary "staff headquarters layers" and should be broken up, with personnel reassigned to the existing afloat-training groups or destroyer squadrons.

"The Strategic Review does not concur with establishment of Naval Surface Group Western Pacific," the report said. "Standing up an additional oversight layer provides another headquarters staff and administrative control function that is likely to perpetuate ambiguous and conflicting authorities. The manpower used

to establish Naval Surface Group Western Pacific is better applied to fully and competently staffing the existing training commands and squadron staffs in the Western Pacific."

Retired Adm. Gary Roughead, a former chief of Naval Operations who helped spearhead the report, suggested staff assigned to the group should instead be used to beef up the existing Afloat Training Group at Yokosuka.

"What we recommended was to take the people you'd put into that headquarters and put those people in a training command or a certification group," Roughead told Stars and Stripes last month. "As soon as you build a headquarters, you already put in a bunch of overhead ... we already are strapped for people, particularly people that have the skills to go out and train. Our view was put the human capital in that and then have the [unit] that was supposed to be responsible for

overseeing readiness, have them figure out how they are going to do that better."

Brown said Naval Surface Group Western Pacific is needed to make timely decisions because of the distance between the U.S. and Japan.

He added that the Afloat Training Group in Yokosuka looks only at specific parts of a ship while the new group will examine ships as a whole and decide if they are ready for operations.

"We have the tyranny of distance and time zones between San Diego and Yokosuka," Brown said. "In my view, having this group here speeds the daily operations and solving issues for ships. I've empowered [Dromerhauser] to make the same decisions that I would make, but he can do it in real time. We're already seeing the benefits of being able to do that."

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MILITARY

Admiral: Stolen US technology boosts China's undersea power

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

China is eroding America's advantage in potential undersea warfare in part by stealing U.S. technology through hacking defense contractors and infiltrating academia, the Navy admiral nominee to lead U.S. Pacific Command said Tuesday.

"I believe they are stealing technology in just about every domain and trying to use it to their advantage," Adm. Philip Davidson said during his nomination hearing before the Senate Committee on Armed Forces.

If confirmed, Davidson, who now heads U.S. Fleet Forces Command, would replace PACOM commander Adm. Harry Harris, who is expected to retire next month and has been nominated for the ambassadorship to Australia.

In his written testimony, Davidson said the greatest warfighting shortfalls for PACOM's joint forces were undersea warfare dominance capabilities, critical munitions capacity and around-the-clock surveillance and reconnaissance.

He described America's under-

sea dominance as "a perishable advantage."

"The United States maintains a significant asymmetric advantage in undersea warfare, but the [People's Liberation Army] is making progress," Davidson wrote. "China has identified undersea warfare as a priority, both for increasing their own capabilities as well as challenging ours."

"The Chinese are investing in a range of platforms, including quieter submarines armed with increasingly sophisticated weapons, unmanned underwater vehicles, new sensors, and new fixed-wing and rotary-wing submarine-hunting aircraft."

Asked by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., whether China was advancing to eliminate the U.S. advantage, Davidson said, "I believe so, sir."

"They have new submarines both on the ballistic missile side and on the attack submarine side, and they're achieving numbers in the build of those submarines as well," he said. "And they're also pursuing other technologies to give them better insights into our operations in the undersea

domain."

That prompted Blumenthal to ask whether and how China was stealing American undersea technology.

"One of the main concerns we have, sir, is cyber and penetration of the dot-com networks," Davidson said. "Exploiting technology from our defense contractors, in some instances. And certainly their pursuit in academia is producing some of these understandings for them to exploit."

He said the entire Defense Department "should insist on higher standards for the systems that we buy from the commercial" sector.

China has sought to acquire U.S. technology by any means "licit or illicit," James Andrew Lewis, senior vice president of the think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies, wrote in a commentary last month.

"China accounts for a majority of economic cyber espionage against the United States (perhaps three-quarters of the losses are from China spying)," Lewis wrote.

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USS Somerset leader relieved of his duties

By CARL PRINE
The San Diego Union-Tribune

The Navy has fired the commander of the amphibious warship USS Somerset following an investigation into concerns about his command climate.

"The commanding officer of USS Somerset was relieved of his duties April 12, due to loss of confidence in his ability to effectively lead and carry out assigned duties," Coronado-based Naval Surface Forces spokesman Lt. Andrew R. Degarmo wrote in an email to The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Rear Adm. Cedric Pringle, commander of Expeditionary Strike Group 3, removed Capt. William Sherrod following a probe into command climate concerns that were not tied to any one event, Degarmo said.

Formerly the Somerset's executive officer, Sherrod, 45, "flew up" to take command of the San Antonio-class warship on Nov. 2.

Sherrod has been temporarily reassigned to the command staff of North Island-based Naval Air Forces. He did not return telephone calls from the Union-Tribune seeking comment.

Capt. Brian Quinn, Expeditionary Strike Group 3's chief of staff, has assumed temporary duties of

the Somerset until a skipper can be found.

The Somerset entered General Dynamic's NASSCO shipyard in San Diego on Oct. 6 for an extended maintenance session.

Last May, the Navy removed both the captain and executive officer of the Somerset's sister ship, the San Diego-based Anchorage, after commanders said they lost confidence in their ability to lead.

The relief of Capt. Jeff Craig and his second-in-command, Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Johnson, stemmed from an inspection last spring that found "improper procedural compliance" throughout the warship, according to Naval Surface Forces.

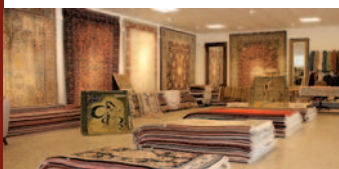
Dismissals for "command climate" problems, like that allegedly caused by Sherrod, are different. Command climate is the culture of a ship's crew, the way they operate ashore and at sea. The Navy charges the commander with sole responsibility for ensuring that it never becomes toxic.

Before becoming executive officer of the Somerset in mid-2016, he served at sea aboard the frigate Dewert, destroyer Winston S. Churchill, carrier Carl Vinson and the cruisers Hue City and Vella Gulf.

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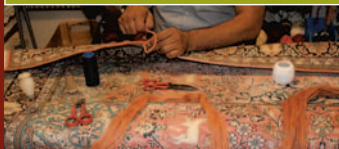


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MILITARY

Report: New amphibious vehicles under budget, on time — for now

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A Marine Corps push to replace its aging fleet of amphibious assault vehicles remains under budget and is on pace to enter the production phase, a government watchdog found, though it warned of continued potential for cost overruns or delays.

The Marine Corps launched the program to replace its Assault Amphibious Vehicle, which was first fielded in 1972, with the Amphibious Combat Vehicle — billed as a better protected and faster way to carry troops from ship to shore.

Development costs are now an estimated \$60 million below original projections of \$810.5 million, a Government Accountability Office report found.

A protest to the Corps' November 2015 selection of two contractor prototypes — BAE Systems' SuperAV and SAIC's Terrex 2 — caused a work stoppage that briefly delayed the schedule, but no further delays are anticipated and Marine officials are set to decide on which of the two it will order for its first batch of 30 vehicles in June.

The GAO, which Congress tasked with monitoring the acquisition program, had previously cautioned Congress about potential for cost increases or schedule delays due to the Corps' aggressive approach. The program is a successor to the amphibious service's defunct Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle program, which was canceled in 2011 over concerns about its affordability.

The GAO credited the service for its management of the new program in its latest report. But officials expressed concerns that the service was planning to

proceed with production without ensuring the contractor's manufacturing processes were fully ready, which the report said could lead to quality issues and higher costs or delays.

The Marines want 208 new amphibious vehicles by 2022, with initial rounds of low-rate runs producing 30 vehicles in 2018 and 2019. That will outfit two of the Corps' 10 amphibious assault companies.

Both prototype designs feature eight-wheeled vehicles with V-shaped hulls designed to minimize the effect of blasts. Both also boast energy-absorbing seat designs to further protect passengers, though they carry far fewer troops than the original AAV.

The vehicles will be armed with a 50-caliber machine gun and 40 mm grenade launcher, the same as the AAV, but the weapons will be remotely operated.

The first model, called ACV 1.1, won't fully replace the 46-year-old AAV, which officials have called "nearly obsolete," so the Marine Corps is also upgrading nearly 400 of its 1,060 vehicles to protect against threats such as roadside bombs at an estimated cost of \$1.7 million per vehicle. The Corps plans to replace those upgraded AAVs by 2035.

The Corps plans to field nearly 500 of the program's second model by 2026 to outfit four of the service's 10 amphibious assault companies. A third model, called ACV 2.0, is expected to travel at twice the old AAV's water speed, allowing the Marines to launch from ships beyond the view of shore without the aid of landing craft to carry the vehicles.

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Bonhomme Richard heads to US after 6 years at Sasebo

By JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Bonhomme Richard has bid farewell Japan, where it served as the flagship of Task Force 76 for the past six years.

The 844-foot amphibious assault ship — which had been homeported at Sasebo since 2012 — set sail Wednesday for San Diego, where it will receive upgrades that include a new flight deck to allow it to carry the Marine Corps' state-of-the-art F-35B Lightning II stealth fighter. Other improvements will include new weapons systems and radar and communication suites.

"Six years of presence. Six years of readiness and meeting their operational commitments. Six years of engaging with regional allies and helping advance their capabilities. I think that is the lasting legacy contribution to the Navy's role here," Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, Task Force 76 commander, told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

The Bonhomme Richard has already been replaced by the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp, which was retrofitted to launch the short-takeoffs and vertical-landing capable F-35B. It's on its first patrol of the region since

arriving in January at Sasebo, where the bulk of the ships in the 7th Fleet's amphibious force are based.

Capt. Larry "Mac" McCullen, the Bonhomme Richard's skipper, said Tuesday that the ship will participate in several exercises and possibly in some state-side Fleet Week activities before going to the yard.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Siara Poder, an aviation ordnanceman who has been with the Bonhomme Richard for four years, said the ship holds many memories for the sailors who have been aboard since it arrived in Japan.

She recalled a time when they had not deployed for nine months because of problems with the flight deck.

"We had to replace the no skid on the flight deck," she said. "Afterward, when the captain gathered us together, he said something I'll never forget: 'I don't know where we are going, but we are going somewhere.'"

That somewhere ended up being Malaysia — the first of many countries Poder has since visited with the Bonhomme Richard.

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MILITARY

Former Gator sentenced in Tricare fraud

By ANDREW CAPLAN
The Gainesville (Fla.) Sun

Former Florida Gator linebacker and NFL player Monty Grow was sentenced Monday to nearly 22 years in prison for a health care scheme that bilked the U.S. government out of nearly \$20 million meant for military personnel, veterans and their families.

Grow, 46, who was indicted in 2016 in a Miami federal court, faced a maximum 36-year sentence for 52 charges.

Grow was sentenced to 262 months of imprisonment, or 21 years and eight months, and ordered to pay \$18.8 million in

restitution.

According to court documents, Grow solicited and received kickbacks, or negotiated bribes, for Tricare beneficiaries who ordered medications between September 2014 and June 2015.

Tricare, a health care insurance program for the Department of Defense, provides services for U.S. military personnel, veterans, reserves and other military dependents, which includes the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

Grow played outside linebacker for Steve Spurrier's Florida Gators from 1990 to 1993. During his junior season, Grow was sus-

pending for a season for violating team rules. Grow went on to play two seasons in the NFL with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Kansas City Chiefs.

The charges Grow faced included five counts of money laundering, eight counts of health care fraud, conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and 28 counts of receipts and payments of kickbacks in connection with a federal health care program. He was convicted on 17 counts in February.

In February, former Gator and NFL quarterback Shane Matthews was sentenced to three months in jail for his role in the conspiracy orchestrated by Grow.

Matthews, 47, played with Grow at UF under Spurrier from 1990 to 1992 before going on to play 14 seasons in the NFL.

Also in February, the court ordered Grow to forfeit property that included his 2014 Porsche, which was seized in 2016; about \$1.7 million from his Bank of America account; and nearly \$1 million from his company, MGTEN Marketing Group.

Court documents say that through MGTEN Marketing Group, Grow received nearly \$20 million in kickbacks from Patient Care America, a Broward County compounding pharmacy, in exchange for recruiting and refer-

ring patients to the pharmacy who were covered by the Tricare health care insurance program.

In all, Tricare paid about \$40 million for the medications for its patients to PCA. PCA, which contracted with Grow, paid him half the reimbursements. Grow kept about \$10 million for himself and paid his team of sales representatives the remaining amount, according to court documents.

Matthews, a Gainesville radio personality and former offensive coordinator at Gainesville High, was paid \$440,000 for lining up sales representatives who secured Tricare patients for the pharmacy.

Air Force drops rape charges against former instructor

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — An Air Force general has dropped charges against a former training instructor who military prosecutors were preparing to re-try on rape accusations at a San Antonio base decades ago.

The decision ended a long legal battle for Master Sgt. Michael Silva, who was convicted in 2015

of raping two women at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Silva was sentenced to 20 years in military prison, but he was released last year following an appeals court ruling.

Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle dismissed the case against Silva on Monday because a recent appellate ruling changed the statute of limitations applying to his charges, and because an accuser

did not want to participate in a retrial, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The dismissal follows a larger 2011 investigation at the base involving 35 basic training instructors accused of assaults and harassment of nearly 70 recruits and technical training students.

About 30 trials were conducted over several years, but only two other sentences were as harsh as

Silva's. One recruiter was sentenced to 27 years. Another basic training instructor was sentenced to 20 years, but died by suicide in prison.

The Air Force said it was not concerned Silva's case might discourage future victims from reporting abuse.

"Victims should feel confident that if they come forward, the government and Special Victims'

Counsel will protect their rights," the statement said. "In addition, we actively encourage sexual assault survivors to report incidents as a way to access support and restorative care."

Don Christensen, president of Protect Our Defenders, an advocacy group for military victims of assault and sexual assault, called the ruling "unfortunate."

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MILITARY

Plan to cut costs at DOD agencies faces roadblocks

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A House panel debate on Wednesday about a proposal to cut 25 percent in spending from a specific group of Defense Department agencies raised a series of stumbling blocks to the plan, including which agencies to shut down, what jobs to cut and its negative impact on servicemembers.

The plan presented by Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, drew questions and a fair amount of skepticism from other lawmakers during a committee hearing to examine its potential impact on the military.

Introduced by Thornberry on Tuesday as the Comprehensive Pentagon Bureaucracy Reform and Reduction Act, the plan aims to slash spending that could result in thousands of job cuts at the Pentagon's so-called "4th Estate," which comprises 20 support and other agencies with more than 700,000 civilian workers and contractors.

"People are always concerned that you can make cuts that may sound good, but a lot of people could get hurt along way," said Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif. "There's a lot more to this. It's not as easy as it looks."

The discussion on the legislative proposal could also play into the development of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, which directs policy and spending plans for the Defense Department. The proposal targets the 4th Estate, which includes commissaries, combat support agencies such as the Defense Logistics Agency and field activities such as military media outlets, including Stars and Stripes.

"I don't think 25 percent is set in stone," Thornberry said following Wednesday's hearing. "As much as we have done reversing the declines in the budget for the next two years, we are going to have to find greater savings in order to properly support the warfighter in the future."

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., the ranking Democrat on the committee, raised concerns that searches for savings within the 4th Estate aren't new and don't clearly lead to savings.

"I am concerned that, in its current form, the proposal could deprive several critical defense functions of resources and sufficient institutional capacity," he said.

"Several Democrats and Republicans on the committee also raised questions about why the proposal targets this one area of the Defense Department, especially as many of its services are

critical for servicemembers. Also, some committee members asked why not go after bigger programs to find savings.

"We're not going to see reform and savings by eliminating Ms. Russell's ability to buy a can of beans in the commissary," said Rep. Steve Russell, R-Okla., an Army veteran.

Thornberry said the spending cuts could amount to more than \$25 billion, but estimates were not provided on how many civilian or contractor jobs would be eliminated or how many military personnel would be displaced as a result of the reductions.

However, the 25 percent cut proposed by the legislation would not affect all 4th Estate agencies and some would be excluded, Thornberry said. Agencies that provide intelligence support and the combat support agencies, which include the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Defense Health Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, would not be affected.

His legislation will also eliminate seven 4th Estate agencies: the Defense Technical Information Center, the Defense Test Resource Management Center, Office of Economic Adjustment, the Defense Technology Security Administration, the Defense Human Resource Activities, the Defense Information Systems Agency and the department's Washington Headquarters Service Agency.

These agencies would be eliminated by 2021, Thornberry said.

Peter Levine, a former Defense Department official who is now a fellow at the Institute for Defense Analyses, testified Wednesday that eliminating the seven Defense Department agencies would amount to only a 2 percent spending cut.

The legislation will also restructure management for the agencies and install the department's Chief Management Officer, or CMO, a newly created position, in charge of the 4th Estate. The CMO will also make the calls on the cuts with a report around March 2020 and then proceed on the reductions by 2021, Thornberry said.

With any military positions eliminated, those workers would be moved into a new job, Thornberry said.

The effort comes as lawmakers are under increasing scrutiny over aggressive spending in the last year. Republicans, in particular, have faced increasing pressure to find cost savings after passing a \$1.3 trillion budget that will see the U.S. deficit soar.

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KENT PORTER, THE (SANTA ROSA, CALIF.) PRESS DEMOCRAT/AP

The California National Guard is deployed near Santa Rosa, Calif., on Oct. 16. President Donald Trump and California Gov. Jerry Brown are at odds over what duties California National Guard troops would perform if deployed to the Mexican border.

Calif. governor: Guard ready, but not for immigration enforcement

By DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — California National Guard troops are "chomping at the bit" to deploy to the U.S.-Mexico border to fight crime, Gov. Jerry Brown said Tuesday, but are not interested in immigration enforcement.

Brown has said that he wanted the Guard to help prevent cross-border criminal and gang activities but would not allow his forces to be used to aid in rounding up "desperate mothers and children or unaccompanied minors."

National Guards from the three other border states — Arizona, Texas and New Mexico — have already deployed more than 900 troops, customs officials said Monday.

"The other three Republican governors have a political affiliation I don't share," said Brown, a Democrat. "But I am concerned about our borders. I am concerned about shipments of drugs not only over land but onto shores of California, and human trafficking, and I am concerned about the guns that are going from California, Arizona and Texas" to the cartels.

Defense and border protection officials repeated Monday that National Guard forces would not be called upon to conduct immigration enforcement activities.

Speaking to the press, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner Ron Vitiello said troops will monitor cameras and sensors, provide aerial support, repair roads and vehicles, do administrative work and clear brush — jobs that don't involve law enforcement and won't put them in harm's way.

"That's the red line," he said.

Vitiello said Brown was asked to send troops in support of border agents at two locations — San Diego and El Centro, just north of Calexico. California was not willing to do that, Vitiello said Monday, but there were ongoing discussions about other duties the Guard could perform.

"We have a requirement in California which we now understand won't be fulfilled by the Guard there," Vitiello said. "The governor has determined that what we've asked for so far is unsupported. But we will have other iterations."

In a tweet Tuesday morning, President Donald Trump blamed Brown for failing to reach agreement on the issue.

"Looks like Jerry Brown and California are not looking for safety and security along their very porous border. He cannot come to terms for the National Guard in its border mission. The high crime rate will only get bigger. Much wanted wall in San Diego already started," Trump tweeted.

But Brown said Tuesday that an agreement for using its forces was near.

"I think we've already come to terms as far as I understand it, but we haven't gotten any written confirmation," he said. "But our National Guard general has been in touch with National Guard people in Washington, and from his perspective, he knows what the mission is. He's ready to go."

Bob Salesses, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Homeland Defense Integration and Defense Support of Civil Authorities, said Monday that California would not allow its troops to conduct operational support jobs, including motor transport maintenance, radio communications, heavy equipment operations, some planning administration or clerical jobs, or surveillance camera operations.

"We are in continuing dialogue — discussion — with the California National Guard and will work closely with Chief Vitiello to see if there's other kinds of responsibilities that California might fill," he said.

About 250 troops from Arizona, 60 from New Mexico and 650 from Texas have deployed, Lt. Gen. David Hokanson, vice chief of the National Guard, said Monday. Those numbers are increasing regularly, he said.

Vitiello said his agency, along with the Pentagon and the National Guard, began looking at using Guard troops a couple of weeks before Trump's April 4 announcement about their deployment to the border.

Hokanson said that while Trump said up to 4,000 troops could deploy in sectors along the nearly 2,000-mile border, the current request is for 2,000 through Sept. 30.

None of the troops will have direct contact with personnel on the border, Hokanson said, and the jobs will not require them to be armed.

Vitiello said that unlike in Operation Jump Start — when Guard soldiers deployed to the border in 2006 — the soldiers will not be in support roles that require border patrolmen to serve as force protection. Still, he said some Guardsmen will be allowed to carry personal sidearms for self-defense as determined by the states and in coordination with his agency.

Salesses said the Pentagon was still trying to determine the cost of the operation and could not say which defense budget accounts would be used.

"Right now we are cash flowing — that's coming from the National Guard accounts, the training accounts right now," he said. Later, the Defense Department could pull from "under-obligated accounts" in the defense budget.

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MIDEAST/MILITARY



MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

A U.S. soldier fled from police on base at Grafenwoehr, Germany, then crashed his vehicle into a tree at Tower Barracks on Tuesday.

Humvee crash near river, police chase on base among 3 Bavaria vehicle incidents

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — A Humvee nearly crashed into a river, a soldier led police on a chase before crashing into a tree and another soldier was seriously injured during a collision in three separate traffic incidents on or near U.S. bases in Germany on Tuesday.

At around 10 a.m., a 20-year-old U.S. soldier stationed at Grafenwoehr lost control of his Humvee while driving about 30 miles south of the Army's Rose Barracks in Vilseck, near the town of Ennsdorf.

The Humvee skidded across the opposite lane on country road 2165, Amnberg police spokesman Achim Kuchenbecker said.

When the driver attempted to re-enter the right lane, the Humvee plowed through the guard rail backward and stopped just short of the Vils River.

The driver sustained minor injuries to his leg, police said. Another soldier in the Humvee was unharmed, police said. The road had to be closed until about 2 p.m.

The total damage to the vehicle and guard rail came to about \$12,500, police said.

German and military police were called to the accident scene. Police did not identify the soldiers involved in the accident.

Meanwhile, a U.S. soldier crashed his vehicle into a tree at the Army's Tower Barracks in Grafenwoehr on Tuesday afternoon after fleeing from military police.

The soldier lost control while driving a vehicle with no license plates.

The soldier initially failed to stop for police, Army spokesman Nathan Van Schaik said. When the soldier drove away, police raised the gate barricades to prevent him from leaving the base and to protect the outside area from reckless driving, Van Schaik said.

Workers at a nearby office told Stars and Stripes that they felt the impact of the crash from inside their building almost 100 feet

away. The driver sustained injuries and was brought to a local hospital. He is currently in stable condition.

At around 7:40 a.m., a soldier stationed at Hohenfels was in a head-on collision and sustained serious injuries while driving in Lauterhofen, about 18 miles north of Hohenfels. The soldier was airlifted to a hospital in Nuremberg, where his condition is stabilizing.

Van Schaik thanked German first responders for quick actions that helped save the soldier's life. "Safety of our personnel is our biggest concern," Van Schaik said.

The accidents are currently under investigation.

Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this report.
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Syrian troops, Palestinians target capital's ISIS pocket

By BASSEM MROUE
AND ALBERT AJI
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian troops and allied Palestinian fighters are massing around the last Islamic State bastion in the capital, preparing for an all-out offensive if talks on an evacuation deal fall through.

The extremists seized most of the Yarmouk refugee camp in 2015 after months of heavy fighting. The built-up residential area on the southern edge of Damascus was once home to some 200,000 Palestinians, mainly refugees from the 1948 war with Israel and their descendants — as well as tens of thousands of middle-class Syrians.

Today there are some 2,500 ISIS fighters in Yarmouk and nearby neighborhoods, according to Khaled Abdul-Majid, a leader of the government-allied Palestinian Resistance Factions Coalition. He said the battle would begin within days if the militants do not agree to be evacuated.

Yarmouk is one of the last pockets held by ISIS, after the extremists were driven from nearly all the territory they once controlled in Syria and Iraq. It is also the last part of the capital outside government control after rebels evacuated the eastern Ghouta suburbs following a fierce government offensive and an alleged poison gas attack.

The government has proposed a similar evacuation deal for ISIS. But instead of sending the militants to the northern rebel-held province of Idlib, it would dispatch them to a pocket of ter-

Delays keep inspectors from Syrian attack site

Associated Press

BEIRUT — International inspectors were still waiting to visit the site of an alleged chemical weapons attack in Syria on Wednesday as the U.S. accused the Syrian government and its ally Russia of trying to cover up the evidence.

It has been 11 days since the alleged attack on Douma, a town outside Damascus that at the time was controlled by the Army of Islam, a rebel group that surrendered in the days after the attack.

The U.S., France and Britain launched missile strikes against suspected chemical weapons facilities one week later after concluding that Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces were behind the attack.

The three countries did not

make their evidence public, and both the Syrian government and Russia have denied any chemical attack took place. Russia has accused rebels of staging the attack with support from Britain, an allegation that Britain has strongly denied.

Syrian state media reported Tuesday that inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons had entered Douma, but the Syrian government later said that only a U.N. advance security team had entered.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Tuesday the U.S. did not believe the inspectors had entered Douma, and that the evidence was at risk of decaying as delays dragged on.

ritory near Israel and Jordan controlled by an ISIS affiliate, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Observatory, which closely monitors the war through sources inside Syria, said ISIS has demanded to go to Idlib instead.

Abdul-Majid said the most extreme of the ISIS fighters reject any settlement, but he insisted they have no choice but to leave to

southern Syria or face a government offensive.

"Despite all the preparations and reinforcement we hope that there will be a deal and not a battle," he said.

Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces have retaken a number of towns from ISIS as well as Syrian rebel groups since Russia entered the war in 2015, providing crucial air support.

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NATION

Ex-Navy pilot calm in landing damaged jet

By SAMANTHA SCHMIDT
The Washington Post

The pilot's voice was calm yet focused as her plane descended with 149 people on board.

"Southwest 1380, we're single engine," Tammie Jo Shults, a former fighter pilot with the U.S. Navy, said. "We have part of the aircraft missing so we're going to slow down a bit." She asked for medical personnel to meet her aircraft on the runway. "We've got injured passengers."

"Injured passengers, OK, and is your airplane physically on fire?" asked a male voice on the other end, according to an air traffic recording.

"No, it's not on fire, but part of

it's missing," Shults said, pausing for a moment. "They said there's a hole, and uh, someone went out."

The engine on Shults' plane had, in fact, exploded on Tuesday, spraying shrapnel into the aircraft, creating a window to be blown out and leaving one passenger dead and seven others injured. Frightened passengers on board the Dallas-bound flight braced for impact as oxygen masks muffled their screams.

In the midst of the chaos, Shults successfully completed an emergency landing at the Philadelphia International Airport, sparing the lives of 148 people and averting a far worse catastrophe.

"She has nerves of steel," one

passenger, Alfred Tumlinson, told The Associated Press. "That lady, I applaud her. I'm going to send her a Christmas card—I'm going to tell you that—with a gift certificate for getting me on the ground. She was awesome."

Another passenger, Diana McBride Self, thanked Shults on Facebook for her "guidance and bravery in a traumatic situation." She said Shults "came back to speak to each of us personally."

"This is a true American Hero," she wrote.

Others on social media agreed, even comparing Shults with Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, who glided his US Airways plane to safety in New York's Hudson

River in 2009.

Southwest declined to name the pilot, though passengers confirmed Shults' name on social media, and Shults' mother-in-law told The Washington Post she was the pilot. Shults' husband also confirmed her name to the AP. Shults declined to comment when reached by The Post.

Her mother-in-law, Virginia Shults, told The Post that as soon as she heard the pilot's voice on the radio transmission online, she said "that is Tammie Jo."

"It was just as if she and I were sitting here talking," Virginia Shults said. "She's a very calming person."

It was also no surprise to her

that Tammie Jo Shults was the pilot credited with the skillful landing. Shults' mother-in-law and friends described her as a pioneer in the aviation field, a woman who broke barriers to pursue her goals.

She was among the first female fighter pilots for the U.S. Navy, according to her alma mater, MidAmerica Nazarene University, from which she graduated in 1983. Cindy Foster, who went to college with her, told the Kansas City Star that Shults was also among the first women to fly an F/A-18 Hornet for the Navy.

"She said she wasn't going to let anyone tell her she couldn't," Foster said.

Hundreds airlifted from storm in Hawaii

By SOPHIA YAN
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hundreds of people have been airlifted out of dangerous floodwaters on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, but authorities said Tuesday others are still stranded at evacuation centers.

The U.S. Army, National Guard, and the county airlifted more than 220 people Monday and are going back for more evacuations, local emergency management officials said. Thirteen people were still stuck at a shelter in Kilaeua, a small town on the northeastern shore, said Coralie Matayoshi, CEO of the American Red Cross of Hawaii.

"We'll be starting to do damage assessment in Kauai for the first time today, because the weather was bad and the roads were blocked. We couldn't do it before," Matayoshi said.

Officials and crews are working to clear landslides and repair fallen utility poles, while state health officials have advised residents in some areas not to drink or cook with tap water as a precaution due to a damaged main line.

Heavy rains caused flooding and mudslides Saturday, forcing



A U.S. Army Chinook departs as evacuees line up Tuesday in Haena, Kauai, where dangerous floodwaters have stranded residents.

residents and tourists into evacuation centers. Roads were closed, including on the island's North Shore.

The National Weather Service recorded 28.1 inches of rainfall in the small North Shore town of Hanalei between 2 a.m. Saturday and 2 a.m. Sunday. The record for a 24-hour period in Hanalei was set in 2012 at 28.54 inches.

Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources said about 25 people elected to be airlifted out of a state park on Kauai on Monday.

Hanalei Elementary School, the only school closed on Kauai, will keep its doors shut Wednesday, but anticipates reopening Thursday. There have been no reports of major injuries.

At least two vacant houses on the North Shore were completely washed off their foundations, county spokeswoman Sarah Blane said Monday.

"It's definitely the worst storm in recent memory," Blane said.

Some residents said the storm was worse than Hurricane Iniki in 1992.

Wyo. school district approves arming school employees

By MEAD GRUVER
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — The Wyoming school district where U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos suggested that teachers might need to be armed to protect children from grizzly bears voted Tuesday on doing just that, though concerns about school shootings worry parents more than the possibility of big bruins on the prowl.

The 4-2 vote by the Park County School District No. 6 board in the town of Cody near Yellowstone National Park came after more than six months of discussion and debate. Under the proposed policy, school employees would need to have at least 24 hours of initial firearms training and annual recertification to carry concealed guns at school.

"Unfortunately, we have people in our country who want to cause harm to students, and at some point you have to respond to that threat. And that's what this board decided to do with the policy they adopted," said Superintendent Ray Schulte.

The policy was up for a final vote after passing two earlier votes 5-2.

Nationwide, some districts are discussing arming teachers not with guns but buckets of rocks (Shuylkill County, Pa.) and tiny baseball bats (Erie, Pa.). But in some rural areas including much of Texas, school officials have been quietly arming teachers for years.

A February shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., killed 17 people but didn't really change minds in northwest Wyoming about whether to arm teachers, parents said.

"I think people are really en-

trenched," said Yancy Bonner, an opponent of arming teachers who said she may remove her fifth-grade daughter from the school district.

In January 2017, DeVos said during her confirmation hearings that elementary schoolteachers in Wapiti, a small community about a half-hour drive from Cody where DeVos' family owns land, might already be armed against grizzlies.

They weren't—and the remark drew widespread ridicule despite being rooted in a measure of fact. Grizzlies descend from the Absaroka Range into Wapiti and other areas near Cody in search of habitat and food. A tall fence surrounds the Wapiti school grounds to keep bears out.

DeVos' comments did not come up during Tuesday night's discussion, according to a reporter for The Cody Enterprise.

"It doesn't have anything to do with grizzly bears," Schulte said. "It has to do with the Wyoming Legislature."

The Legislature, which passes gun-friendly legislation almost every year, passed a bill in 2017 letting school districts decide whether to allow teachers and other employees to carry concealed weapons. Republican Gov. Matt Mead signed the bill into law, and schools in the city of Evanston in March became Wyoming's first to allow armed teachers.

Tuesday's vote happened in Park County, which has one of the biggest gun museums in the U.S. and plenty of hunters, outfitters, ranchers and libertarians who like guns.

The policy passed Tuesday night was not to allow all concealed carry permit holders to bring weapons onto school grounds.

Former FBI agent pleads guilty to leaking documents

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A former FBI agent in Minneapolis who says he was angry about racial targeting by the agency has pleaded guilty to leaking classified documents to a news organization.

Erry Albury, 39, pleaded guilty Tuesday to two charges of revealing national defense information and is expected to serve three or

four years in prison.

Albury, who had a stint working for the FBI in Iraq, had a top-secret clearance for his assignment as a liaison with Customs and Border Protection at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Beginning in 2016, he began to take records, cutting and pasting some documents to avoid detection and taking pictures of his computer screen. The date on one

document listed in the charges matches one published by The Intercept, a news website, as part of a series on FBI practices.

In a statement, Albury's lawyers, JaneAnne Murray and Joshua Dratel, said he was a whistleblower who was trying to expose wrongdoing in the agency. They said he did not reveal any sources or information about specific operations.

NATION

Trump campaign rebukes hopeful's 'endorsed by' signs

Associated Press

BROWNSBURG, Ind. — Donald Trump's re-election campaign has demanded that Rep. Todd Rokita take down yard signs it says give the false impression the president endorsed the Indiana Republican's Senate bid, two people with direct knowledge of the matter told The Associated Press.

The rebuke came after two volunteers who led Trump's 2016 campaign in Vice President Mike Pence's home state endorsed Rokita during an Indianapolis news conference last week.

The Rokita signs, which have gone up since that event, proclaim in large white letters "Endorsed by Trump/Pence," with smaller letters below adding "2016 Indiana Team Leaders."

Rokita spokesman Nathan Brand refused to say if the campaign will comply with the Trump campaign's request.

"We do not comment on yard sign strategy," Brand said in a statement that reiterated the endorsement by the two volunteers.

Tony Samuel, one of the volunteers who endorsed Rokita, told the AP that the Trump campaign texted him Monday night to voice displeasure over the signage.

Trump's re-election campaign is concerned the signs imply an endorsement that has not been made, a campaign official said.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

A sign promoting the campaign of GOP U.S. Senate candidate Todd Rokita is shown in Brownsburg, Ind., on Tuesday.

The campaign also asked that Rokita's campaign certify in writing once the signs have been taken down, the other person with direct knowledge of the matter said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

Rokita and Rep. Luke Messer are locked in a tight three-way race with former state Rep. Mike Braun that will determine who faces Sen. Joe Donnelly in November's general election. The primary is May 8.

Dems on Senate panel push back on Pompeo pick

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's pick for secretary of state, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, is facing so much opposition from Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the panel could be forced to take the unusual step of sending the nomination to the full Senate without a favorable recommendation.

Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, of New Hampshire, on Tuesday became the latest member of the committee to announce her opposition, and Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., recently said he would vote no. Both supported Pompeo as CIA director last year.

Pompeo is still expected to have enough votes in the full Senate to replace Rex Tillerson, who was fired by Trump. But as support peels away, his confirmation may

come down to a handful of senators. The backlash ahead of the panel's vote is a rare rebuke for such a high-profile Cabinet pick, and sets Pompeo on a potentially uneven path for the new job.

"I continue to have deep concerns regarding Mr. Pompeo's past statements and policy views, particularly in regards to the LGBTQ community, American Muslims and women's reproductive rights," Shaheen said in a statement after calling the former Kansas congressman Tuesday to tell him she would be opposed.

Shaheen said Pompeo's previous remarks "are fundamentally different from that of Secretary of State, who represents American values around the world."

From The Associated Press

Russia sanctions quarrel unfolded in a public way

By JILL COLVIN,
MATTHEW LEE
AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — An internal White House quarrel over the timing of new Russia sanctions played out in public when the new economic adviser suggested U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley was suffering from "momentary confusion" and Haley retorted, "With all due respect, I don't get confused."

The feud appeared to quiet down after the economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, called Haley to apologize Tuesday afternoon, a White House official said. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.

Earlier Tuesday, Kudlow told reporters during a briefing in Florida that Haley "got ahead of the curve" when she said the U.S. would be slapping new sanctions on Russia on Monday in retaliation for the country's support for Syria's Assad government after its latest suspected chemical attack.

Kudlow, director of the National Economic Council, said additional sanctions are under consideration but have yet to be implemented. Of Haley, he said, "There might have been some momentary confusion about that."

Haley then issued a terse statement to Fox News: "With all due respect, I don't get confused."

The dispute between Haley's team and the White House had been playing out largely behind the scenes since Haley said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation" that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin would be announcing new sanctions directed at companies associated with Syria's chemical weapons program on Monday, "if he hasn't already."

The White House had been struggling to explain Haley's remarks amid reports that President Donald Trump put the brakes on the new sanctions. Several administration officials have disputed that characterization,



MARY ALTAFFEN/AP

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley listens as Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari speaks after a vote Saturday on a resolution during a U.N. Security Council meeting on Syria.

saying Haley was out of the loop.

Three senior administration officials said there were several attempts to get Haley to back off or clarify her comments, but she refused.

The officials said that, under the plan conceived last week, the sanctions would have been announced Friday night, at the same time U.S., French and British forces launched a missile strike on Syrian President Bashar Assad's chemical weapons facilities. But the sanctions were not ready in time for Trump's Friday night statement, so they were delayed.

The officials said a decision was then made to announce the sanctions as an answer to Russia's response to the strikes. But that plan was re-evaluated and then put on hold over the weekend as it became clear that Russia's response was less robust than anticipated. The officials were not authorized to discuss private administration deliberations pub-

licly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

A National Security Council memorandum sent overnight Friday said the new sanctions would be announced soon, but it did not specify a date. Over the next 36 hours, officials began to delve deeper into the proposed sanctions and decided to hold off on anything imminent, but Haley was unaware, the officials said.

On Monday, a new memo went out from the NSC saying that additional sanctions were under consideration, but no decision had been made. In the face of Haley's refusal to clarify on Sunday, draft language was sent to her suggesting again that she do so, the officials said.

Haley and her office ignored that so the White House decided to push back, the officials said.

On Capitol Hill, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., applauded the administration Tuesday as having "moved miles in the right direction" on Russia policy.

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Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at www.stripes.com/relo



NATION

Former first lady Barbara Bush dies at 92

Wife of one president, mother of another, brought plainspoken, grandmotherly style to DC

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Barbara Bush didn't hesitate to tell people that her trademark pearl necklaces were fake. Americans liked that everything else about the snow-haired first lady was real.

The wife of the nation's 43rd president and mother of the 43rd brought a plainspoken, grandmotherly style to buttoned-down Washington, displaying an utter lack of vanity about her white hair and wrinkles.

"What you see with me is what you get. I'm not running for president — George Bush is," she said at the 1988 Republican National Convention, where her husband, then vice president, was nominated to succeed Ronald Reagan.

Mrs. Bush died Tuesday, according to a statement from family spokesman Jim McGrath. She was 92.

A funeral is planned Saturday at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, which Mrs. Bush and her husband, former President George H.W. Bush, regularly attended. Mrs. Bush will lie in repose Friday at the church for members of the public who want to pay respects. Saturday's service will be by invitation only, according to the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation.

The Bushes, who were married on Jan. 6, 1945, had the longest marriage of any presidential couple in American history. And Mrs. Bush was one of only two first ladies who had a child who was elected president. The other was Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams and mother of John Quincy Adams.

"I had the best job in America," she wrote in a 1994 memoir describing her time in the White House. "Every single day was interesting, rewarding, and sometimes just plain fun."

The publisher's daughter and oilman's wife could be caustic in private, but her public image was that of a self-sacrificing, supportive spouse who referred to her husband as her "hero."

In the White House, "you need a friend, someone who loves you, who's going to say, 'You are great,'" Mrs. Bush said in a 1992 television interview.

Her uncoiffed, matronly appearance often provoked jokes that she looked more like the boyish president's mother than his wife. Late-night comedians quipped that her bright white hair and pale features also imparted an uncanny resemblance to George Washington.

Eight years after leaving the nation's capital, Mrs. Bush stood with her husband as their son George W. was sworn in as president. They returned four years later when he won a second term. Unlike Mrs. Bush, Abigail Adams did not live to see her son's inauguration. She died in 1818, six years before John Quincy Adams was elected.

In 1984, her quick wit got her into trouble when she was quoted as referring to Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice presidential nominee at the time, as "that \$4 million — I can't say it, but it rhymes with rich."

"It was dumb of me. I shouldn't have said it," Mrs. Bush acknowledged in 1988. "It was not attractive, and I've been leaving. I apologized to Mrs. Ferraro, and I would apologize again."



STEVE GONZALES, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

The Mensch International Foundation presented its annual Mensch Award to former President George H.W. Bush and former first lady Barbara Bush on March 8, 2017. Mrs. Bush died Tuesday at 92.

Daughter-in-law Laura Bush, another first lady, said Mrs. Bush was "ferociously tart-tongued" from the start.

"She's never shied away from saying what she thinks. ... She's managed to insult nearly all of my friends with one or another perfectly timed acerbic comment," Laura Bush said in her 2010 book, "Spoken from the Heart."

In her 1994 autobiography, "Barbara Bush: A Memoir," she said she did her best to keep her opinions from the public while her husband was in office. But she revealed that she disagreed with him on two issues: She supported legal abortion and opposed the sale of assault weapons.

"I honestly felt, and still feel, the elected person's opinion is the one the public has the right to know," Mrs. Bush wrote.

She also disclosed a bout with depression in the mid-1970s, saying she sometimes feared she

would deliberately crash her car. She blamed hormonal changes and stress.

She said she snapped out of it in a few months.

Mrs. Bush raised five children: George W., Jeb, Neil, Marvin and Dorothy. A sixth child, 3-year-old daughter Robin, died of leukemia in 1953.

In a speech in 1985, she recalled the stress of raising a family while married to a man whose ambitions carried him from the Texas oil fields to Congress and then into influential political positions that included ambassador to the United Nations, GOP chairman and CIA director.

Along the way, she said, there were also "bumpy moments — not many, but a few — of feeling that I'd never, ever be able to have fun again and coping with the feeling that George Bush, in his excitement of starting a small company and traveling around the world,

was having a lot of fun."

In 2003, she wrote a follow-up memoir, "Reflections: Life After the White House."

"I made no apologies for the fact that I still live a life of ease," she wrote. "There is a difference between ease and leisure. I live the former and not the latter."

Along with her memoirs, she wrote "C. Fred's Story" and "Millie's Book," based on the lives of her dogs. Proceeds from the books benefited adult and family literacy programs. Laura Bush, a former teacher with a master's degree in library science, continued her mother-in-law's literacy campaign in the White House.

Mrs. Bush was born Barbara Pierce in Rye, N.Y. Her father was the publisher of McCall's and Redbook magazines. After attending Smith College for two years, she married young naval aviator George Herbert Walker Bush. She was 19.

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WORLD

Frenchman doing well after 2nd face transplant

By MARIA CHENG
Associated Press

LONDON — In a medical first, a French surgeon said he has performed a second face transplant on the same patient — who is now doing well and even spent a recent weekend in Brittany.

Dr. Laurent Lantieri, of the Georges Pompidou Hospital in Paris, first transplanted a new face onto Jerome Hamon in 2010, when Hamon was in his mid-30s. Hamon has a condition called neurofibromatosis type 1, which can cause skin tumors on the face and elsewhere.

After he became ill in 2015, Hamon was given drugs that interfered with the anti-rejection medicines he was taking for his face transplant.

Last November, the tissue in his transplanted face began to die, and Lantieri decided to remove it.

That left Hamon without a face, a condition that Lantieri



HEGP AP-HP/AP

In this undated combination handout photo, Jerome Hamon is shown before and after two face transplants.

described as “the walking dead.” Hamon had no eyelids, no ears, no skin and could not speak or eat. He had limited hearing and could express himself only by turning his head slightly, in addition to writing a little.

“If you have no skin, you have infections,” Lantieri told The As-

sociated Press on Tuesday. “We were very concerned about the possibility of a new rejection.”

In January, when a second face donor for Hamon became available, Lantieri and his team performed a second face transplant. First, doctors had to replace all of the blood in his body in a month-

long procedure to eliminate some potentially worrisome antibodies from previous treatments.

“For a man who went through all this, which is like going through a nuclear war, he’s doing fine,” Lantieri said.

He added that Hamon is now being monitored like any other face transplant patient.

Hamon’s first face was donated by a 60-year-old. With his second transplanted face, Hamon said he managed to drop a few decades.

“I’m 43. The donor was 22. So I’ve become 20 years younger,” Hamon joked on French television Tuesday.

Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, of Harvard University, who has done face transplants in the U.S., said similar procedures would ultimately become more common, with rising numbers of patients.

“The more we see what’s happening with (face transplant) patients, the more we have to accept

that chronic rejection is a reality,” Pomahac said. “Face transplants will become essentially nonfunctional, distorted, and that may be a good time to consider retransplanting.”

He said it’s still unknown how long face transplants might last but guessed they might be similar to kidneys, which generally last about 10 to 15 years.

“Maybe some patients will get lucky and their faces will last longer. But it will probably be more common that some will have to be replaced,” he said.

Lantieri said he and his team would soon publish their findings in a medical journal but he hoped cases like Hamon would remain the exception.

“The other patients I’m following, some have had some alteration of their transplant over time, but they are doing fine,” he said. “I hope not to have any future transplants like this.”

More than 200 child soldiers are released in South Sudan

Associated Press

JUBA, South Sudan — More than 200 child soldiers were freed by armed groups in war-torn South Sudan, part of a series of releases that will see almost 1,000 children freed in the coming months.

An estimated 19,000 children are believed to be in armed forces amid the country’s five-year civil war, which has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions. South Sudan has one of the highest numbers of child soldiers in the world, according to the U.N.

At the “laying down of the guns” ceremony, 112 boys and 95 girls were returned to their families in areas outside the town of Yambio on Tuesday. It was the first community release of child soldiers where children were directly reunited with their parents and siblings instead of first going to institutions.

“It’s about sending a clear message that children should not be in the army,” UNICEF’s representative in South Sudan, Mahimbo Mdoe, told The Associated Press. The release comes weeks ahead

of the young country’s third round of peace talks, scheduled to be held at the end of the month in neighboring Ethiopia. A ceasefire signed on Dec. 24 was broken hours later, and another round of talks were inconclusive.

To date, the U.N. has released more than 2,000 child soldiers, yet despite progress and the government’s commitment to halt the recruitment of children, advocacy groups say it continues.

South Sudan’s government says it condemns the use of child soldiers and blames the opposition for recruiting children.

The opposition says the children in its ranks weren’t recruited but were taken in after government soldiers murdered their families.

But several children released by the opposition, speaking to the AP at their release in February, said they had been taken by force.

“They tied my eyes and tied our bodies to theirs,” said a former child soldier in Yambio earlier this year.

The AP is not using her name to protect the identity of a minor.

Striking workers disrupt trains, flights in France

PARIS — French rail workers, airline employees and students staged another string of strikes and sit-ins Wednesday despite French President Emmanuel Macron’s insistence that protests won’t prevent him from trying to overhaul the economy.

The striking workers, whose number was down slightly from previous protests, are demonstrating against plans to revoke a special status that allows them to retain jobs and other benefits for life.

Meanwhile, Air France crews

and ground staff were entering their ninth day of strikes over pay since February. About 30 percent of flights were canceled Wednesday.

They are seeking a 6 percent pay increase, arguing their wages have been frozen since 2011.

Students were also continuing to organize protests in campuses around France. They are against admissions reforms that they fear threaten access to public university for all French high school graduates.

From The Associated Press

Saudi Arabia to mark launch of movie theaters with ‘Black Panther’ showing

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia was scheduled to hold a private screening Wednesday of the Hollywood blockbuster “Black Panther” to herald the launch of movie theaters in the kingdom that are expected to open to the public as early as next month.

Authorities were planning an invitation-only screening of the movie in a concert hall converted into a cinema complex in the capital, Riyadh. The screening, to be attended by both men and women, will be followed by a rush to build movie theaters in major cities. The Saudi government dubbed Wednesday’s event as “the showing of the first commercial film in the kingdom after more than 35 years.”

It’s a stark reversal for a country where public movie screenings

were banned in the 1980s during a wave of ultraconservatism that swept Saudi Arabia.

Despite decades of ultraconservative dogma, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has sought to ram through a number of major social reforms with support from his father, King Salman.

The crown prince is behind measures such as lifting a ban on women driving that will go into effect this summer and bringing back concerts and other forms of entertainment to satiate the desires of the country’s majority young population. The social push by the 32-year-old heir to the throne is part of his so-called Vision 2030, a blueprint for the country that aims to boost local spending and create jobs amid sustained lower oil prices.



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AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

A man passes by a TV screen showing file footage of CIA Director Mike Pompeo, center right, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center left, during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday.

Steps: US' Pompeo, N. Korean leader meet as nations prepare for a Trump-Kim summit

FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump did not give further details of the talks, which took place over Easter weekend, according to the two people who first described the Pompeo trip to The Post. It was unclear why Trump referred to "last week" in his tweet.

"I'm optimistic that the United States government can set the conditions for that appropriately so that the president and the North Korean leader can have that conversation [that] will set us down the course of achieving a diplomatic outcome that America so desperately — America and the world — so desperately need," Pompeo told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week during his confirmation hearing.

Speaking at his Mar-a-Lago resort Tuesday, Trump appeared to allude to the extraordinary face-to-face meeting between Kim and Pompeo when he said the United States has had direct talks with North Korea "at very high levels." The president didn't elaborate at the time.

Trump said that he probably would sit down with Kim in early June, if not sooner.

Pompeo has taken the lead on the administration's negotiations with Pyongyang. His meeting with Kim marks the highest-level contact between the countries since 2000, when then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with Kim Jong Il, the current leader's late father, to discuss strategic issues. Then-Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr. visited the country in 2014 to secure the release of two American captives and met with a lower-level intelligence official.

The CIA declined to comment. Diplomats at the North Korean mission to the United Nations in New York, which is the main conduit for messages between Washington and Pyongyang, also declined to comment.

About a week after Pompeo's trip to North Korea, U.S. officials said officials there had directly confirmed that Kim was willing to negotiate about potential denuclearization, according to administration officials, a sign that both sides had opened a new communications channel ahead of the summit meeting and that the administration believed North Korea was serious about holding a summit.

"We have had direct talks at very high levels, extremely high levels with North Korea," Trump said Tuesday during a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla.

Trump also said he has given his "blessing" to planned discussions between South Korea and North Korea about bringing a formal end to the Korean War as fast-moving diplomatic developments surrounding nuclear-armed North Korea came into view.

Hostilities in the Korean War, which involved the United States, ended 65 years ago, but a peace treaty was never signed. A top South Korean official was quoted Tuesday as saying that a formal end to hostilities was on the agenda for the summit between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in next week in the demilitarized zone between the countries.

Yet such a deal would be complicated and would require direct U.S. participation and agreement. The United States signed the armistice agreement on South Korea's behalf, and any peace treaty would have to be between the United States and North Korea.

A big part of the reason a peace treaty has never been signed is because Pyongyang has long insisted that if one were attained, U.S. troops would no longer be required in South Korea, a demand the United States has rejected.

On Tuesday, Trump said the summit with Kim is likely to happen by early June if all goes well. He added a caveat: "It's possible things won't go well and we won't have the meetings, and we'll just continue to go on this very strong path we have taken."

Abe appeared delighted with the progress he made with Trump, including a pledge from the U.S. president to raise with Kim the issue of the unresolved cases of at least 13 Japanese citizens abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s — an important domestic issue for Abe.

Trump met with several families of the abductees during a visit to Tokyo in November, and the president was outraged by the death last summer of Otto Warmbier, an American college student who died shortly after being released in a coma from 17 months in captivity in the North. Three Americans remain in captivity, and U.S. officials suggested that their release is likely to be part of talks with Pyongyang.

Trump and Abe entered their summit hoping to repair a relationship that has been strained by Trump's decision to meet with Kim, which has alarmed Tokyo, and his move to enact steel and aluminum tariffs without granting Japan a waiver.

Larry Kudlow, Trump's chief economic adviser, played down a rift with Japan on trade and said the administration's tariffs were aimed at punishing China, which he accused of "acting like a Third World economy." Kudlow declared that a global coalition stands behind the Trump administration's strategy.

"This trade coalition of the willing that I've been talking about, that others have been talking about, is really aimed at China," he said. "China is a First World economy behaving like a Third World economy. And with respect to technology and other matters, they have to start playing by the rules."

3 key issues ahead of Trump-Kim summit

By Rick Noack
The Washington Post

In an effort to lay the groundwork for direct talks between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, CIA Director Mike Pompeo made a top-secret visit to North Korea over Easter weekend, The Washington Post revealed Tuesday. Acting as an envoy for Trump after he was nominated to be secretary of state, Pompeo also met with Kim himself, according to the report.

On Tuesday, Trump had already alluded to the meeting when he spoke of direct talks with North Korea "at very high levels."

Soon afterward, he tweeted that the meeting went "very smoothly and a good relationship was formed" and details of the summit were being worked out.

The details of the summit and what will be discussed remain up in the air, but here are three of the key issues:

■ Where will the U.S.-North Korean summit take place?

Trump said Tuesday that the upcoming summit between him and Kim would take place in one of five locations that were currently under consideration. None of those possible locations was in the United States, according to the president.

While the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea or nearby China and Russia would be possible locations, other analysts have suggested countries that have previously acted as an intermediary between the United States and North Korea, such as Singapore, Switzerland or Sweden. But there might be a problem.

"That has raised a question about how Kim, who made his first trip since coming to power outside North Korea to Beijing in an armored train last month, would get there," The Post has reported. "If Kim took his own plane, stopping to refuel on the way to any summit could also prove embarrassing by highlighting the limits of the aircraft — and where to stop would be complicated, as well, given the number of countries that have put sanctions on North Korea."

■ What would denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula entail?

During his visit to Beijing at the end of March, Kim was quoted by China's official news agency as saying that "the issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula can be resolved if South Korea and the United States respond to our efforts with goodwill, create an atmosphere of peace and stability while taking progressive and synchronous measures for the realization of peace."

But it is unclear whether both sides interpret their aim to achieve a "denuclearization on the peninsula" in the same way. With his remarks in March, Kim

may also have been suggesting that he seeks some security assurances from the United States and other nations with nuclear arsenals that could theoretically reach North Korea — a condition the United States would be unlikely to comply with, given that would likely entail withdrawing missiles from much of the Pacific region.

To some in Washington, "the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," as Trump tweeted late last month, means Kim handing over his nuclear weapons and missile systems and allowing international inspectors to check that the regime is keeping its word.

To Pyongyang, it means something very different. It means mutual steps to get rid of nuclear weapons, including requiring the United States to take down the nuclear umbrella it has put up over South Korea and Japan. That is a difference in definition that could toll a death knell for the summit before it even starts.

A different question is whether Pyongyang will stick to its frequently repeated demand that U.S. troops would need to leave South Korea as part of a denuclearization deal.

■ Will South Korea and North Korea be able to negotiate a peace deal?

Before the Kim-Pompeo meeting was revealed Wednesday, South Korea said that it was considering a peace agreement with North Korea. The two countries are currently preparing a separate summit. Both nations have emphasized their willingness to work on a deal in the past, but no detailed plans were ever negotiated.

A peace deal would replace an armistice that has been in place for decades and that essentially ensures a truce between both countries. North Korea and South Korea have officially still been at war since the 1950-53 Korean War.

"People don't realize the Korean War has not ended," Trump said Tuesday.

He voiced support for plans to strike a peace deal between the two neighboring countries, but only if North Korea agreed to denuclearization.

For any such peace deal would really be negotiated is still unclear, however: South Korea itself is not a party to the armistice that was negotiated by a U.S.-led United Nations Command, the "Chinese People's volunteers," and North Korea. Hence, even if South and North Korea would want to announce the official end of the war, any such move would have to be preceded by complex negotiations in which the United States would have to play a key role. China would likely also want to have a say on any final agreement.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

GOP takes aim at auto loan discrimination rule

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-led Congress last year revoked more than a dozen Obama-era federal regulations. Now, it's poised to undo guidance a consumer protection agency issued five years ago to help ensure minority car buyers aren't charged higher interest rates.

Republicans said that rescinding the guidance is necessary because it amounted to a backdoor attempt to regulate auto dealers. Congress expressly prohibited such regulation when establishing the consumer protection agency through passage of the Dodd-Frank Act in 2010.

The legislative battle extends beyond the terms of car loans,

however. Opponents warned that the GOP's fight against government regulations is entering a new phase and a Senate vote Wednesday could be the first of many to nullify scores of agency bulletins and guidance letters issued over the years. Such guidance conveys to the public how regulators interpret existing law and what steps industries should take to comply.

The GOP is using what had been a rarely successful legislative tool to overturn regulations that were often years in the making. The Congressional Review Act gave Congress the ability to overturn recently issued federal rules with a simple majority of both chambers of Congress and approval of the president.

Before President Donald

Trump came into office, Congress had overturned only one federal rule over two decades using the tools available through the Congressional Review Act. Last year, it overturned 15 federal rules.

The GOP is expanding its use of the 1996 law to take on guidance the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau issued five years ago regarding certain car loans. The Consumer Federation of America called the effort a "dangerous precedent" that will lead to uncertainty over whether agency interpretations of a law will be invalidated years after the fact.

"Congress risks increasing confusion and miscommunication between the government and businesses in every sector of the economy," the Consumer Federation of America said.

Republicans framed the issue as Congress coming to the rescue of businesses.

"Republicans are chopping away at the tangled mess of regulations the last administration left behind," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. "Our whole economy is getting a tune-up. And now it's time for the front end of the auto industry to come along for the ride."

Auto dealers often facilitate financing through a third-party lender. In some cases, the dealer will charge the customer an interest rate that is higher than what the third party agreed to charge. Then, the dealer will sell the installment contract to the lender and get a payment called the dealer markup that compensates them for persuading the

borrower to accept the higher interest rate.

The CFPB said that the practice led to some minority customers paying higher interest rates than similar white borrowers. In its guidance, it highlighted the potential liability auto lenders face from discriminatory dealer mark-ups and how that can be avoided.

The guidance has ruffled lawmakers who considered it regulatory overreach.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 19)	\$1.2713
Dollar buys (April 19)	€0.7866
British pound (April 19)	\$1.46
Japanese yen (April 19)	¥104.00
South Korean won (April 19)	₩1,039.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.4232
Canada (Dollar)	1.2562
China (Yuan)	¥6.2745
Denmark (Krone)	6.0136
Egypt (Pound)	£17.132
Euro	\$1.2385/0.8074
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8499
Hungary (Forint)	250.31
Israel (Shekel)	3.5154
Japan (Yen)	¥107.19
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.9299
Norway (Krone)	7.7567
Philippines (Peso)	52.04
Poland (Zloty)	3.36
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7495
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3099
South Korea (Won)	1,064.85
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9665
Thailand (Baht)	31.21
Turkey (New Lira)	4.0467
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

cy's aging information systems.

The IRS typically recommends that taxpayers use electronic filing to avoid common mistakes. Online filing is quicker than dropping something in the mail — when the site works, of course.

MARKET WATCH

April 17, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	213.59
	24,786.63
Nasdaq composite	124.81
	7,281.10
Standard & Poor's 500	28.55
	2,706.39
Russell 2000	16.77
	1,579.80

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	34.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.69
3-month bill	1.74
30-year bond	3.02

Website issues give US taxpayers extra day to file

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
Associated Press

Americans got an extra day to file their taxes after key elements of the IRS website crashed on deadline day.

The IRS said that individuals or businesses with a filing or payment that was due Tuesday had until midnight Wednesday to complete the task.

Earlier Tuesday, Americans who had waited until the final day to file online got an unwelcome surprise.

The agency's website for making payments and gaining access to other key services was down due to what Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin later described as a "high-volume technical

issue."

The website was back online late Tuesday.

"This is the busiest tax day of the year, and the IRS apologizes for the inconvenience this system issue caused for taxpayers," Acting IRS Commissioner David Kautter said in a statement. "The IRS appreciates everyone's patience during this period. The extra time will help taxpayers affected by this situation."

The IRS snafu also caused problems for popular third-party tax preparers such as Turbo Tax and H&R Block. Both said that they would hold on to customer tax returns and file after the IRS system reopened.

The agency did not say how many people were affected by the

outage.

Last year, some 4 million tax returns were filed on the final day of the traditional tax season. Electronic filing is the most popular way to file in the U.S.

The IRS said that at this point, the problem appears to be a hardware issue. It provided no further details on the cause or severity of the problem.

Tax day fell on April 17 this year because April 15 was a Sunday and April 16 was Emancipation Day, a holiday in Washington.

Former IRS Commissioner John Koskinen warned last year of a possible system failure, due in part to underfunding of the agency.

Among the areas that he said were underfunded were the agen-

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

FACES

Schumer responds to flick backlash



By NICOLE BITETTE
New York Daily News

Amy Schumer is feeling defensive about her upcoming flick, "I Feel Pretty."

The comedian spoke to *Vulture* ahead of the movie's debut about how people were quick to bash the movie just from its trailer — and attempted to set the record straight.

"There was a backlash to the trailer, and that was kind of disappointing. Even then, though, I understood it, and knew that the film wasn't about what they thought it was about. I just wished they could see it," she told *Vulture*.

Schumer, 36, plays Renee Bennett in the film, an insecure woman who believes a head injury made her more beautiful — but it was all just a matter of confidence.

She told *Vulture* people were misunderstanding what the film was about and explained the assumptions that were made.

"There's been a lot of projection. I heard a lot of, 'She doesn't have a right to feel bad about herself because she looks however she looks.' But first off, it's not about an ugly troll becoming beautiful, it's about a woman who has low self-esteem finding some," she explained.

"I heard the comment, 'Why does she have to think of herself as skinny?' a lot. But you never see how I see myself!

That's a guess, that Renee thinks of herself as skinny. In the scene after the head injury, the assumption is that the woman I see when I look in the mirror is skinny, but I'm just seeing my same self and perceiving my body as beautiful," Schumer continued.

"She doesn't say, 'I'm so thin!' She just says that she's amazed by her jawline, and her boobs, and her ass. If anything, that sounds like a more voluptuous woman to me."

Once the film's trailer dropped, many fans took to Twitter to argue that Schumer shouldn't be playing someone people don't think is attractive.

"Who is this meant to resonate with?" one user questioned. "Before we can enjoy the premise, surely we have to buy into the fact that she is not pretty. How many of us are bigger than her? Are we supposed to accept that THIS is ugly when it's all we've been taught that we should aim for?"

The recently married actress serves as a producer on the film, and she understands that her name is tied to whatever project she is working on.

"Every tweet, every official post about this movie, it's going to end up reflecting on me. So I've had to fight hard. I cleared every social media post, specifically because I know and this is how public thinking works. I'm trying to do my best, but some stuff falls through the cracks," she explained.

"I Feel Pretty" hits some installation theaters Friday.

Amy Schumer, shown April 17, says people are making unfair assumptions about "I Feel Pretty."

JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

Kendrick Lamar's Pulitzer Prize win hailed as 'big for music'

From wire reports

The decision to award rapper Kendrick Lamar the Pulitzer Prize for music represents a historic moment not just for hip-hop and American music but also for the usually stuffy Pulitzer process itself, says one of the music jurors who picked the album "DAMN." as a finalist.

"It's big for hip-hop. I think it's big for our country. It's big for music. But it's big for the Pulitzers, too. Institutions are not stuck in time, either. Institutions can change," said Parah Jasmine Griffin, a Columbia professor.

Lamar's win on Monday made history as the first non-classical or non-jazz artist to win the prestigious prize since the Pulitzers included music in 1943. Just having a rapper nominated for the prize is considered a stunning development for awards that usually honor musicians of European classical background.

"I knew that there would be some anger and some resentment and some people who wouldn't like the idea, but surprisingly enough, I haven't heard a lot of that," Griffin said.

In addition to Griffin, the music jury this year included music critic David Hajdu, violinist Regina Carter, Paul Cremona from the Metropolitan Opera and the composer David Lang. The five-member music jury listened to about 180 pieces of music and after deliberating for a few days then submitted to the final board three works — Lamar's album along with Michael Gilberson's "Quartet" and Ted Hearne's "Sound from the Bench." Adding "DAMN." was a unanimous decision by all five.

"Everyone expects that there would have been some form of resistance. There was none," said Griffin. "It was just welcomed by everyone as an opportunity to have a serious conversation about the art, about Mr. Lamar's work, but also about what constitutes what kind of music that should be eligible for this."

The final decision was made by the Pulitzer board, which hailed Lamar's CD as "a virtuosic song collection unified by its vernacular authenticity and rhythmic dynamism that offers affecting vignettes capturing the complexity of modern African-American life."

Pink and her kids grace cover

Pink is on the cover of *People* magazine's beauty issue, and she's got some adorable company — her young children.

The magazine has rebranded its Most Beautiful issue as The Beautiful Issue and features dozens of celebrities, including some posing with their best friends, their rescue pets and without makeup.

People Editor-in-Chief Jess Cagle says the magazine adopted the approach to "make clear the issue is not a beauty contest." Cagle says Pink was chosen after editors saw photos of the singer with her children, 15-month-old son Jameson Moon and 6-year-old daughter Willow Sage.

Pink offers her thoughts on parenting in the issue and says she believes in giving affection and letting her son and daughter know that they can count on her and her husband, motocross racer Carey Hart. "My parents obviously did not believe in that and I worked out okay," the singer told the magazine. "I always tell Willow, 'I'm going to teach you the rules so that you'll know how and when to break them.'"

The issue is on newsstands Friday.

Lawsuit leads to revelations

Jurors got a rare behind-the-scenes look at a David Copperfield disappearing act Tuesday during testimony in a negligence lawsuit involving a British man who claims he was badly hurt when he fell while participating in a 2013 Las Vegas show.

The magician's friend and executive producer, Chris Kenner, revealed to jurors the mystery behind a signature Copper-

field illusion that appeared to make about a dozen audience members vanish together onstage.

Practiced stagehands with flashlights hurried randomly chosen participants down unfamiliar passageways, around corners, outdoors, indoors and through an MGM Grand resort kitchen in time to re-enter the back of the theater for their "reappearance" during the show finale, Kenner testified.

Cox and his wife, Minh-Hahn Cox, are seeking unspecified damages in the negligence lawsuit.

UK critics praise musical

British theater critics are praising a new stage musical about Tina Turner's life — and it has the approval of the star herself.

Turner was in the audience for the opening night of "Tina" at London's Aldwych Theatre. After the show Tuesday, she joked that "I've found a replacement" in Adrienne Warren, who plays the brass singer in the musical.

The show charts Turner's roots in small-town Tennessee, her musical apprenticeship alongside abusive husband Ike Turner and her solo breakthrough in the 1980s with hits such as "What's Love Got to Do With It?" It's a gritty tale with powerhouse tunes and a performance by Warren that the *Guardian* newspaper called "simply astonishing."

Spielberg to produce flick

Steven Spielberg is flying into the DC Universe with the World War II action adventure "Blackhawk." Warner Bros. Chairman Toby Emmerich said Tuesday that the legendary filmmaker will produce and may direct the film for the studio. The *Blackhawk* series started in 1941 and follows a group of ace WWII-era pilots as they fight evils, including the Axis powers.

In other news, with the success of the legendary director's latest flick, "Ready

Player One," Spielberg has now brought in more than \$10 billion at the box office, including inflation, making him the first filmmaker to do so. "Ready Player One" has brought in \$114 million domestically so far, palling in comparison to hits like "Jurassic Park" and "Jaws."

Other news

■ The network announced Tuesday that the 2018 MTV Video Music Awards will be Aug. 20 at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

Deadline is reporting that Cathy Yan will direct a movie set to star Margot Robbie in a return to her "Suicide Squad" role of Harley Quinn.

■ Actor John Stamos is a father. The 54-year-old announced on Instagram the birth of his son, Billy Stamos. Stamos says the child has inherited his father's hair.

■ Bruno Sammartino, a professional wrestler's "Living Legend" and one of its longest-reigning champions, died Wednesday after having been hospitalized for two months. He was 82. Sammartino was wrestling's biggest box-office draw in the 1960s and 1970s and held the World Wide Wrestling Federation championship for more than 11 years over two title runs.

■ Newscaster Carl Kasell, a signature voice of NPR who brought his gravitas to "Morning Edition" and later his wit to "Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me!" has died. He was 84. NPR said Kasell died Tuesday from complications from Alzheimer's disease in Potomac, Md. He retired in 2014.

■ Actress and model Emily Ratajkowski says she wasn't signaling that she was pregnant when she posted a photo of herself on Instagram with the caption "Bearing fruit." The 26-year-old tells USA Today she was in a tree holding fruit and "bearing fruit" seemed like the right caption. She says it was sweet that people were excited, but she's "not pregnant."

STARS AND STRIPES®

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

My Life as a Military BRAT

By Emalee
5th Grade,
Germany

If you have been an Army or Navy or Air Force Brat, you know that you have to be strong when mom or dad goes away either to train or to fight in a war.

You know you got to be able to cope with the sadness and missing that person. I know this feeling too well. Hi, I'm Emalee, my dad has been in the U.S. Army for 17 years. I've been a military brat for 11 years. Ever since 2007.

It's always hard when my Dad goes away. My little brother, Jeremy, always cries when "Dada" goes away. He's been a brat since 2012. In the times my dad is gone I read like a crazy woman. Right now I'm reading "The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell". It's really good.

I also have made good friends. Their names are Ella, Anna, and Zoë. Ella's mom just had a baby and is the art teacher, her dad is in the Army also. Anna's parents both work at my school, her dad is the school psychologist, and her mom is a sub. Zoë's dad is a teacher at the school also! Her mom was born in the Netherlands.

I always hate when my dad goes away, but I occupy myself with fun activities like this to spend my afternoon at home. I've been to 5 duty stations. Colorado → Italy → El Paso → Texas → Massachusetts → GERMANY!!!!!! I love being a Military Brat.

I hope you liked this!

What I would wish for

By Merziaha
2nd Grade, Germany

If I was a military kid, I would make sure that there is a lot of food for everyone to eat. Then make a rule to wash hands before eating and after you go to the bathroom so no one will be sick.

I would try and make the world a better place, so I mean do not put trash on the ground. I say throw it away. Or don't smoke. Ride a bike not a car because there is bad air, it can make you sick. Maybe you can cut the grass or reuse something. You can play outside.

Missing Daddy

By Thalia DiDuca
2nd Grade, Okinawa

Being a military child is not always fun for me because my dad has to go on trips a lot. My dad has to work late sometimes. I don't like it when he has to go on long trips. I really miss him.

One time, I cried because I really missed him and I almost stayed up the whole entire night. At least it was not a school night. I do not like that he has to go on very long trips like a year or two. He will go on a 30-day trip soon. Hopefully this is his last trip.

The thing I do like about being a military child is that sometimes he gets days off. I get some days off on the same day as my dad's days off. (I have a daddy doll that I snuggle with almost every day and night).

I really love my daddy doll and he really loves me, too.

My dad and I like to play games together when he comes back. The games we like to play are called Trolls in Trouble and Rat-A-Tat-Cat because in Trolls in Trouble there can be three winners and in Rat-A-Tat-Cat the low numbers are cats and the high numbers are rats. (You really want to get the cats not the rats) In Trolls in Trouble I win first place. In Rat-A-Tat-Cat my mom wins.



Celest L., Okinawa

Celest L.



Read more from military children every Thursday in April

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

To me, being a military child is not as bad as it sounds. I mean yeah, I move a lot, so I couldn't really make any ever-lasting friends, but now we have technology, which lets me contact people in Virginia and Hawaii through text and/or FaceTime. And I'll have ten times more stories than non-military children because I'll go to so many new places. There are also the American bases. On the bases I don't really feel lonely, because everyone else knows about always moving and having to get used to a new place. The bases are also safe, so I don't have to walk around at night thinking I'm going to get mugged or something. On the other hand, I can't really "fall in love" with things like houses or cars, because I can't just take my house as luggage on a plane, and my parents will sometimes sell the car so we don't have to spend thousands of dollars to ship it overseas.

And then there are schools. I can either like a school, hate it, or not like it, but not hate it. If I hate a school, I won't have an open mind for other schools, and I might only focus on the negatives instead of the positives. If I love a school, then my next school is terrible, I'll want to move immediately, then I'll be told I will be there for 2 years, and I'll be grumpy for the rest of the school year. Then there's that 5% chance that I'll like a school, then I'll move and like the next school as well (example: I liked my school in Virginia, then I moved and still like my school in England). This is all I have to say about being a military child. Bye.

— John Vanda, England

Being a Military Child has its pros and its cons. A con for being a military child is that every time you move you have to leave all of your friends behind. A good thing is that when you move you get to go to different places in Europe, like Belgium where I am right now. A con is that here in Belgium stores close early and that is a bad because you always need something exactly when the store closes. Another bad thing is the moving because then you have to pack up all of your stuff which sometimes can be pretty annoying because you have to load it all on the loading truck, and then you have to get to the place you are going and you always get there before the moving truck and then you have nowhere to sleep.

But you get to learn all new languages and I bet your friends and family will be impressed when you can speak languages like French. It is good that sometimes when you go to the new school you maybe have to arrive there later than you did back in your country. Here in Belgium, it is almost always raining so I have the thought of playing outside out of the window, but the best thing is that the school I am in here has lots of vacation time which means you can visit your friends and catch up on everything.

— Remi R., Belgium

You make new friend but you lost the others and after 3 years you lost your other friend. It rains mostly every day. There is no Greek food no heart I am sad inside my stomach. You can travel very easy into 6 countries at 5 hours. You miss your family like grandpa, grandma, cousins and other siblings. The shops close early and more hours of school. You met more countries different children and languages. Free education and free education of your own language. But the message is that be happy for what you have because others don't have that, make more friend and keep going with your life. Don't look behind because your friends will be inside your heart and at the photos you took from the good places you, been.

— Panagiotis G., Belgium



Gwen, 2nd Grade, Germany

Living in Belgium has some pros and cons. Some of the pros might be going to different places that maybe other people can only dream of. One of the cons are that shops close early. In Spain I went shopping at 19:00 and all the shops closed about 21:30 but here the stores close so early that it's a little bit stressful.

Also a big pro is making new friends from other countries: Not a lot of people get to go to school with people from other countries and different cultures. It might sound that it's a little scary being a military child because some people might imagine us surrounded by police and people with guns and stuff like that. That's what other people asked me how it works here. Other pro that I think I am good at making friends where I don't know where I am. I didn't have a lot of difficulty here at SHAPE.

— Fatima V., Belgium

I am not a big fan of being in the military community because there are not as much privileges as there are in the U.S. Instead of telling you the bad things the whole time, I am going to tell you the good things.

First of all, you get to meet new people, make new friends, and live in old houses. You also get to visit places you have never been before like England, Scotland, and Wales.

Second of all, despite the fact your parents are mostly getting stationed somewhere else, the time you do get with your family is even more special.

Personally, I like the schools here, but other people might think they're not the best. The teachers are very nice. I have friends such as Will, Harrison, Henry, Jacob, Robbie, Christopher, and John V.

Now, I will tell you the bad reasons. First of the negative things, there is not a Chick-fil-A in England. The only good places to eat on base are the Bowling Center and Bun-D.

Second of the bad things, I can't really visit my family quite enough as I wish I could. I can't visit them unless I call them over the phone or FaceTime them.

In conclusion, I think I'd rather not be in the military community, but I can deal with it.

— Ethan Davis, England

Being a military child has pros and cons. If you move to other countries you stay home there for 2-3-4 years. It's sad because you have to leave your friends back and some family members like grandfather and grandmother, but there are also some good things about moving to other countries. For example, you can try other foods, you make new friends from other countries and you have the chance to see new schools with different education. I moved to Belgium 2 years ago and I learned the Belgium culture and I made a lot of friends. I don't like Belgium so much, because the weather is cloudy and windy, but when the weather is hot, I like it so much because it makes me feel that I am in Greece. Another thing that I don't like in Belgium is that the shops close too early, at six o'clock they are closed, but in Greece shops are closed at ten o'clock. I like that Belgium has Souvlaki the best Greek food. I like Belgium because every day I learn how life outside of Greece.

— Konstantinos B., Belgium

I started living my life in Colorado 11 wonderful years ago. Both my mom and dad had jobs: My mom worked for a newspaper company called the New Falcon Herald and my dad worked for the U.S. Air Force. He retired as a Major when I was very little and he served for 21 years. Living in Colorado, we never went of the base much because we had everything we needed in a few stores you might recognize the names of called Walmart and Safeway. All of these things were sold in the U.S. and there was no need to go all the way to the base when we could get everything we needed just fifteen minutes away, but all of that changed when our life in Colorado ended and we moved to Germany.

Life in Germany was different to say the least. We had a home off the base in a little, old village called Altford, but often times, nearly every day to be exact, we would resort to three bases called Panzer, Patch, and Kelley. Each base served a purpose: Panzer was where we bought most of our appliances like things for cooking. (We also got all of our toys there too). Patch was where we got our gas and most of our groceries and food. That was also where the movie theater was as well. Kelley was where my dad worked and was where we got our milk. Kelley was always my least favorite because it was so far away and because there was absolutely nothing to do at all, like: Oh, wow! We drove 45 minutes to get a letter that we don't need at all! Exciting! Life off base was even worse though. Germany had lots to offer and was very Earth friendly but when you come from the states where everything is bigger, it's hard to live in a small home. Sometimes you need just a little taste of home and the home isn't satisfactory.

Try living in a small home where almost everything didn't work, where everyone was rude and spoke another language, and of course you had to deal with school. I liked school most of the time but this time around I hated it. I had gone to a private school where every kid's dad worked for really expensive car companies and was a complete snob. One kid would tell me what art I made was awful, another would always boss me around, one even called me a fat American, and nearly all of them would curse and swear on a daily basis! I had but one friend. Germany was one of the worst parts of my life but make no mistake, I learned a lot. By the second month, all of us were ready to move out, but there was no escape. Or was there? One night, my father had come home from work and had asked us, "How do you guys feel about moving to England?" There was about 10 seconds of silence and both of us were debating whether we should or not. "Sure we said. A lot of our things were still in boxes, so why not?" Of course I would have to pack up my Lego again, but all of us wanted to leave this awful place, so we decided yes and a while later, we had found both another house and school and we were on the way to the United Kingdom.

When we had arrived and had gotten settled it was time to go to work and school. We had loved everything we had said (and lived in) but were things about to change since Germany had put a bad taste in my mouth, I went in feeling like everything was going to turn out terribly and that everyone was going to be rude just like last time, but even though it was my first day and there was still a lot to uncover, I felt happy again. When I walked through the door, I was greeted with a warm welcome. I felt like I fit in again and now I felt like I was nearly living my old life again back in Colorado. I could finally say that I was at peace. That day my mom and I were talking about why everyone, (including everyone off the base), were so nice. She and I both agreed that it was because of where we had been living in Germany. In Stuttgart, everyone was so rude because they could be so mean about having "So much money" and had tons of "Fancy cars". Whatever the reason was we were just happy that we didn't live there anymore.

We still resort to the base a lot because even though it doesn't make a big difference, it is still a reminder of home. Life is definitely an adventure and there is a lot to explore, so I guess you could say that being a military child has its pros. Life can be really great when you need a little sense of home, because even though England comes close, it's still not America. So, through the ups and downs and the goods and the bads the U.S. military has helped us with all our journeys including those still to come.

— Christopher Morlan, England

Being a military brat is complicated but also fun. You're always moving, always being the new kid. There are some examples of being a military brat. I will tell you my biggest story of being a brat. Starting May 2016, the R. family moved to Belgium. At that moment all I knew was that it is in Europe and that a battle happened there. We packed for the move and said goodbye to our family members and we got on the plane.

I'd never been on a plane before that, and I hadn't been overseas before that. Arriving in a new country is exciting but different. For the first year of this deployment we get to see the country's culture and foods and monuments. In conclusion, the life of a military brat is nice but different.

— Xavier R., Belgium

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Show your gratitude for military kids

BY EMMA DOCKERY,
CO-FOUNDER OF YELLOW RIBBONS UNITED

Military families, especially kids, make silent sacrifices that often go unacknowledged by their civilian counterparts. Birthday, holiday, and milestone celebrations without mom or dad because of long deployments; new friends every time it's time to PCS and move to a new military installation; and the uncertainty that comes with a parent's career choice are just some of the challenges military kids face on a daily basis.

According to a recent survey, 51% of military families feel as if they don't belong in their civilian community and 48% do not feel supported by their local civilian community. Our military families need to know they not only belong, but they are appreciated.

My dad served in the U.S. Army for thirty years, and my brother, Sgt. David Williams, made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan in 2012. Over the course of my life, I've experienced many of the feelings and anxiety military kids face which is why my husband, Derrick, and I started Yellow Ribbons United. We understand how the 51% feel and we want to change it.

Yellow Ribbons United is dedicated to bringing civilian and military communities together. Because Derrick played in the NFL, we understand your team is your family. Our military families are our collective team and as in any family, you are there for them; tell them they are valued and important; and show your appreciation.

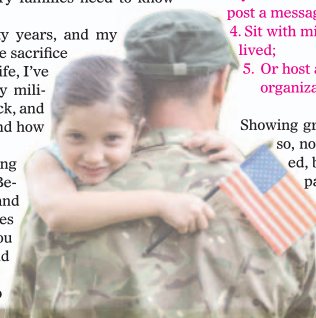
We believe that encouraging civilian kids to

demonstrate gratitude now will cultivate a lifetime of appreciation for the sacrifices military families make. This is why we established Yellow Ribbon United's Kid2Kid program. Kid2Kid lets civilian children show their understanding and appreciation for military children by taking thoughtful and practical actions.

Some easy and practical ways kids can show their appreciation are:

1. Write a thank you note to share with a military family and post it online;
2. Draw a picture that reflects how military families and our service members make you feel;
3. Fly an American flag outside your house in honor of a family and post a message on social media;
4. Sit with military kids at lunch and learn about the places they've lived;
5. Or host a lemonade stand and donate the money to a military organizations that focuses on military families.

Showing gratitude and finding small, but meaningful ways to do so, not only let's military families know they are appreciated, but that we recognize we are all on the same team, and part of the same community. As we prepare to kick-off month of the military child, I ask civilian parents to talk to their kids about the sacrifices military families make and to encourage their children to engage with their military friends in ways that truly demonstrate their appreciation for the challenges that come along with serving our great nation.



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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Being a military child has its ups and downs, here just a few of them...

When I say military to you, what do you think of? Camouflage? War? Well, I think international. As a military child, you move around alot so it's hard to keep in touch with old friends, but moving around lets you see so many places you thought you'd never see. I know moving has taken me to many different places inside and outside of the USA. There was one point when I wound up in Korea!

Back to the friend thing though. As a military child, you have to be good at making friends because once you make a really good friend, in a matter of time, chances are you're going to move away from them. It's always hard saying goodbye to your best friend, and with your parents in the military, you have to do it a lot! Also, it feels so good to say you have a British friend, or a Korean best friend to American classmates!

An amazing part of being a military child is getting to go on and off of a military base. A military base (a base) is like a little community of military people. Mostly all the people are American, and on most bases, there's a school, so you don't have to go to some foreign school. The people at the school are really easy to talk to because they go through the same things you go through, like late nights at the airport, or 8 hours on an airplane to get to a new country. There's also housing on the base. Base housing is usually super close to the schools, so kids can just walk to and from school. There's also a place called the Youth Center, where kids can go after school. If you have parental permission, you can sign out of the Youth Center and walk around the base, or buy an after school snack. That brings us to the B.X., standing for Base Exchange. The B.X. is a small store that has a variety of things from clothes, to food. Most of the kids that go to the Youth Center go to the B.X. to buy a snack after school.

So, those are the ups and downs of being a military child. I hope you enjoyed!

- Skylar Starr,
England

Being a military child is different than being a normal child. There is a lot of pros and cons so lets get started. One pro is that you can see all these different places like Amsterdam, Normandy, and Bastogne.

Another pro is making new friends from different places like Romania or Poland or France or Denmark. My best friend Fredrik.D is from Denmark. There is another pro which is learning different cultures. I have learned a lot

about the Belgian culture. One thing is they can make some pretty good waffles and French fries. They also have some pretty great cathedrals. Another pro is that you can try different foods like the waffles, chocolate, and french fries. The last pro is that you can learn new languages.

There are also cons. The first con is no Zaxby's (It's a restaurant in the south of the U.S.). Another con is you always have to adjust to the new place you are living either

country or state because you have to move every 2-3 years. The final con is you have to leave all your friends behind. But being a military child is still fun. So yeah that's my military child life.

- Michael M.,
Belgium

Being a military child has its pros and cons, and not many people know about this, that's why I'm going to tell you my story. When I was born in Spain my father was already in the military. I really like being a military child, of course I has its cons but mostly pros. I get to see a lot of places in Europe like France, Italy, Belgium, and a lot more, which most people only get the chance when they are older. But the bad thing is that I move a lot, and I have to adapt a lot. A good thing is that I get to meet a lot of new, different people. I don't know what I'm going to be when I grow up, but I hope to enter the military. I also have been stressed a lot when I moved to a new place, but when I got used to my new home, country, and friends I thought I was really lucky to be a military child. Being a military child has some bad things, but it's mostly awesome.

- Rodrigo P.,
Belgium

Check out more military
children stories at:
militarychild.stripes.com

It's really annoying to be in the military community and sometimes, if isn't. There's some ups and downs, but there's mostly downs. Here are some of the ups and downs, for me.

First, I have to leave my friends. I know it's deplorable because once I get to a new school, I'll be a loner. It's so hard to leave a good friend behind, but if there's moving where I'm moving it's fine.

Next, it's the packing. My family moves every three years and when the three years are up, we take back breaking hours to pack all of our stuff. When we're moving, we have to disconnect the WiFi! It's really annoying how we have to disconnect the WiFi.

Then, we have to sleep on one mattress all together because we won't have another bed! Plus, we won't have a bed sheet, blanket or pillows either!

Lastly, it's the actual move. We wake up in the middle of the night to get to the airport to catch our flight so we can go wherever my dad is getting deployed. Wherever he's getting deployed, it's either in a foreign country or some place where it's foreign and they speak English.

On to the Ups

First off, one good thing is new friends. I can always make new friends when I move, it's not that hard. Well, for some people it might be hard, but the new people might be nice (or just plain old rude).

Next, I get to go to different places I would never be able to go. Since we move every three years, I get to try new places, see how they are other than, reading off people's "Facebook post" saying "Just went to Paris, it was amazing."

Lastly, I get to start over. I get to refresh myself. I mean I get to be a new person without anyone knowing it.

Overall, I feel like being in the military is good. There might be some ups and downs here and there, but I like being a military child.

- Jordan Bates,
England

- Ariana D.,
Belgium

Hi, my name is Emily B. I am an 11 year old living in Belgium. Being a military child is a lot different than a civilian child. My life is also different from a military child, too, because I don't move every 2-3 years. My dad used to be in the military but now he works for the military at a DoDDS school. I have lived in Belgium for 9 years and starting my 10th, so I don't move as much. I was born in Misawa, Japan and I moved to Belgium when I was 3. The fun part about living in Europe is that I get to explore a lot of places in Europe like France, Holland, Great Britain, and so on. Being overseas is cool because I get to have lots of new friends that come and move here. In Belgium we have lots of vacation time in our DoDDS school, like spring break is 2 weeks and we have a lot of days off by itself. But some of it isn't fun like not seeing our family, but I only visit them because I have never lived in America. What is not cool is that we don't have Walmart, Target, and Home Gardent! Also, our stores close earlier than in the USA. In addition, Belgium rains all the time; it's like we don't have summer. But there's barely anything bad about living overseas. It's just kind of different than in the states. So if your moving overseas, don't be afraid because it's different wherever you go. (It probably won't rain as much as Belgium though.)

- Emily B.,
Belgium

Hi my name's Walker and I am the youngest child of a lieutenant colonel in the US army, and being an army child isn't so bad, but it also isn't the best. Some of the pros are that you get to travel a lot and make new lots of new friends, new food and much more! But there always is a bad part for every good part, like your dad or mom has to go on deployment for a long time like six months or a year and you have to adjust, and deal with leaving stuff behind like friends, family, and even sometimes pets. Overall being a military child can be really good or really bad.

- Walker C.,
Belgium

My Life as a Military Child



Aria, 2nd Grade, Germany

Being a military child has pros and cons. If you move to other countries you stay home there for 2-3-4 years. It's sad because you have to leave your friends back and some family members like grandfather and grandmother, but there are also some good things about moving to other countries. For example, you can try other foods, you make new friends from other countries and you have the chance to see new schools with different education. I moved to Belgium 2 years ago and I learned the Belgium culture and I made a lot of friends. I don't like Belgium so much, because the weather is cloudy and windy, but when the weather is hot, I like it so much because it makes me feel that I am in Greece. Another thing that I don't like in Belgium is that the shops close too early, at six o'clock they are closed, but in Greece shops are closed at ten o'clock. I like that Belgium has Souvlaki the best greek food. I like Belgium because every day I learn how is life outside of Greece.

- Konstantinos B.,
Belgium

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OPINION

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By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN
Los Angeles Times

There's a quality of urban life that people either love or hate: Everywhere you look in a city is a terminal point of human desire. If you're in a city right now, look around. Church. Manicure joint. Strip club. Condos. The population's collective demands for litigation, sex, shelter and (above all) #airlatar are inscribed in the cityscape. Contrast this with an untamed natural landscape where human desires aren't answered at all. Want a bed or simple hydration? The forest and desert don't care.

Facebook is a hypertropolis that can make even the most committed urbanite long for the countryside. It's engineered to stoke and satisfy desires. Initially, users turn to Facebook for clients, romance and popularity. Eventually we're trained to crave and demand everything from overpriced socks to political propaganda.

That's where we start shelling out more precious in dollars and cents for more precious bits of our attention and data.

But where a city fulfills the wants and needs of its entire population, Facebook is perpetually reading individual users. It both installs our buttons and pushes the hell out of them. It speaks to us in our own voice, cobbling together from what it interprets to be our longings and desires.

Facebook then consents that voice, and amplifies it. The data-and-targeting algorithm acts like Iago, amping up our basest emotions while pretending to be merely concerned for our welfare. Mention the word "cheating" in Messenger for, example, and Facebook's Iago jumps to conclusions, showing you ads for private-eye services. (Not that I know this firsthand.)

It was this icky part of Facebook's user experience that seemed most to bother the members of Congress who interrogated Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zucker-

berg last week. Ostensibly the hearings were to determine whether government ought to regulate Facebook, which enjoys unprecedented power over 2 billion users. But the hearings often seemed more like a 10-hour encounter group for boomers and seniors terrified of digitization. Understandably, the gang on Capitol Hill was deeply concerned about the targeting of users with bespoke come-ons. Targeted ads are one of the few ways ordinary people see visible evidence of Facebook's arcane data operation, and concern about ads is a proxy for the broader worry about data-gathering.

It was interesting to hear senators and congresspeople voice their anxiety and to hear Zuckerberg express contempt for it.

Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, (R-1942) asked an especially sweet, pained question: "I'm communicating with my friends on Facebook and indicate that I love a certain kind of chocolate. And all of a sudden I start receiving advertisements for chocolate. What if I don't want to receive those commercial advertisements?"

"If you want to have an experience where your ads aren't targeted using all the information that we have available," Zuckerberg replied, "you can turn off third-party information."

The implication was that Nelson's squeamishness was not just odd, but self-defeating. Why wouldn't he want targeted ads using all the dirt on him in Facebook's arsenal? Zuckerberg's answer implied one of Facebook's more far-fetched talking points. According to the company line, data-harvesting and user-targeting are not done in the name of profit, but for even profits. Rather, they're done for the same reason Facebook does all else — because it cares about us. Hmm. Unlikely.

When Sen. Deb Fischer, of Nebraska, (R-1951) pressed Zuckerberg on data storage, he said even more clearly than he had to Nelson that Facebook does it for our own

good: "We store data about what people share on the service and information that's required to do ranking better, to show you what you care about the most."

What you care about was an insidious Zuckerberg euphemism for targeted ads and propaganda. Another was "relevant content." He was proposing that human beings want to be confronted with nothing but things they're presumed to desire.

As he flatly asserted, "The overwhelming feedback that we get from our community is that people would rather have us show relevant content than not."

Clearly, the chocolate-loving Nelson was not part of that feedback. And if those who fail to opt out of the data-gathering are considered to be overwhelmingly in favor of it, that's a hopeless indicator. Opting out, of course, made as tricky as possible.

But that's not the point. Zuckerberg and Facebook believe we are not only desperate to "connect" but desperate to be understood — if only by an algorithm that sees us as a nothing but a ball of needs and wants ripe for exploitation. Then it mirrors, and refracts that image back at us until we come to believe it, and — worse — until we yield to the exploitation as evidence that Facebook cares about us. It's devilish logic. No wonder the reflex of many in Congress was a kind of disbelief and dysphoria. And even if we believe it, then it mirrors, and gathering and targeting are for the benefit of the people, they looked more defeated.

Nelson is from Florida. Fischer is from Nebraska. Come the next recess, I hope they go home for a bit. Maybe visit the Everglades or the Wildcat Hills. In swamps and on jagged peaks, they might find something even to meet baselin' desires for comfort.

But when no one's telling you to want — well, the traditional American word for that is freedom.

Virginia Heffernan writes commentary for the Los Angeles Times. She is the author of "Magic and Loss: The Internet as Art."

I was wrong. Too much tech is ruining lives.

By VIVEK WADHWANI
Special to The Washington Post

Just over four years ago, I was a cheerleader. Social media was supposed to be the great hope for democracy. I know because I told the world so. I said in 2014 that no one could predict when this revolution would take us. My conclusion was dusted with optimism: A better connected human race would find a way to better itself.

I was half-right. Nobody could have predicted where we have ended up. Yet my optimistic prognosis was utterly misguided. Social media has led to less human interaction, not more. It has suppressed human development, not stimulated it. As Big Tech has marched onward, we have regressed.

Look at the evidence. Research shows that social media may well be making many of us unhappy, jealous and — paradoxically — antisocial. Even Facebook gets it. A academic study that Facebook cited in a blog post revealed that when people spend a lot of time passively consuming information, they wind up feeling worse. Just 10 minutes on Facebook is enough to depress — clicking and liking a multitude of posts and links seems to have a negative effect on mood.

Meantime, the green-eyed monster thrives on the social network. Reading rosy stories and/or carefully controlled images about the poor and love lives of others leads to poor comparisons with one's own existence. Getting out in the wars-and-all world and having proper conversations would provide a powerful antidote.

Some chance! Humans have convinced themselves that "catching up" online is a viable alternative to in-person socializing.

And what of consumer choice? Former Google design ethicist Tristan Harris noted in an essay about how technology hijacks people's minds that it is actually designed to give us fewer choices, not more. When you do a Google search for a restaurant, for example, you are presented with a limited set of choices with advertisers appearing at the top of a list. We rarely browse to the second page of search results. Harris likened this about what magicians do: "Give people the illusion of free choice while architecting the menu so that they win, no matter what you choose."

We are becoming unthinkingly reliant — addicted — to ease of use at the expense of quality. We are walking dumpsters for Internet content that we don't need and that might actively damage our brains.

The technology industry also uses another technique to keep us hooked: feeding us a bottomless pit of information.

This phenomenon is the effect Netflix has when it auto-plays the next episode of a show after a cliffhanger and you continue watching, thinking, "I can't stop now, I'm in the sleep or the weekend." The cliffhanger is, of course, always replaced by another cliffhanger. The 13-part season is followed by another one, and yet another. We spend more time in front of the television and yet we feel no more satiated. When Facebook, Instagram and Twitter tack on their scrolling pages and conversational news feeds, causing each article to roll into the next,

the effect manifests itself again.

Perhaps we should go back to our smartphones and, instead of playing Netflix or sending texts on WhatsApp, use their core function. Call our friends and family and have a chat or — better — arrange to meet them.

Meanwhile, Big Tech could carve an opportunity from a crisis. What about offering a subscription to an ad-free Facebook? In return for a monthly fee, searches would be based on quality of content rather than product placement. I would pay for that. The time savings alone when booking a trip would be worth it.

Apple pioneered the Do Not Disturb function, which stopped messages and calls waking us from sleep, unless the caller met certain emergency criteria. How about a Focus Mode that turned off all notifications and hid our apps from our home screen, to ease the temptation to play with our phones when we should be concentrating on our work, or talking to our spouses, friends and colleagues?

In the 1980s, the BBC in Britain ran a successful children's series called "Why Don't You?" that implored viewers to "turn off their TV set and go out and do something less boring instead," suggesting sociable activities that did not involve a screen. It was wise before its time. The TV seems like a pious adversary compared with the deadening digital army we face today.

Vivek Wadhwani is Distinguished Fellow and professor at Carnegie Mellon University. Engineering at Silicon Valley and a director of research at Center for Entrepreneurship and Research Commercialization at Duke University.

OPINION

Trump is a startling echo of Bill Clinton

By ELI LAKE
Bloomberg View

Watching Donald Trump's presidency lunge and wobble from scandal to crisis, a Bill Clinton déjà vu sets in. We've been here before. The independent prosecutors. Corruption probes that turn up adultery. The lies and the pardons. The cover-ups and the payoffs.

Friday's missile strikes in Syria encapsulate the Trump-Clinton parallel universe. HBO host Bill Maher called it "Operation Desert Stormy," suggesting the military operation was meant to distract from the FBI raid of Michael Cohen's office, home and hotel room. Cohen is alleged to have paid for the silence of Stormy Daniels, the former pornographic performer who says she had a steamy evening with Trump back in 2006.

It's reminiscent of the chatter about Clinton's airstrikes against an aspirin factory in Sudan and some al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan back in 1998. It was the same day his former intern Monica Lewinsky returned to testify before a grand jury. Even the weapon used was the same: the cruise missile.

There's also the self-pitying paranoia. As first lady, Hillary Clinton famously described her husband's pursuers as a "vast right-wing conspiracy," arguing that political opponents set out to destroy him. Even the Clinton family rants on Twitter about the "deep state" trying to do the same thing.

Feminist leaders, who would never have excused Clinton's harassment and predations in other contexts, defended him in the middle of the Lewinsky scandal. Today it's moralists, policy wonks on the fly, surprising even his Cabinet. Just see the president's tweets about punishing Syria for the chemical weapons attack before his military had

Make no mistake: Clinton and Trump are not equivalent. Clinton was a wonk who mastered the details of policy. Trump often mangles policy on the fly, surprising even his Cabinet. Just see the president's tweets about punishing Syria for the chemical weapons attack before his military had

finished drawing up options for a response. Clinton had some strained relationships with his Cabinet, particularly in his first term. But he trusted his top officials as they pursued a coherent policy agenda, unlike during Trump's term so far.

And while both presidents had fraught relationships with the FBI, Clinton restrained his resentment while Trump's spirals out of control. Clinton was dogged by his second FBI director, Louis Freeh, who investigated everything from his sex life to his campaign's financing. But Clinton never fired him, as Trump did with his first FBI director, James Comey. Clinton never publicly called for him to be jailed either, as Trump has done this week with Comey.

What the two men do share are character flaws that rise to the surface and curdle their presidencies. Trump is not Clinton, but a grotesque echo. This manifests in two ways: how they lie and how they are corrupted.

Let's start with lying. Clinton lied like a lawyer. He parsed. Under oath, he answered the accusation that he lied about his affair with Lewinsky by saying it depended on the meaning of the word "is." This kind of dissension is nauseating, but it's also familiar. Omissions, elisions and faulty memory now count as conventional deception in Washington.

Trump lies like a late-night infomercial. He spews hyperbole and nonsense. He promises to build a wall and he promises that Mexico will pay for it. He compels his supporters and staff to repeat his lies, like instructing his first White House press secretary, Sean Spicer, to insist his inauguration had the largest crowds in history. He assures us that his campaign had no contacts with Russia, even though he was seeking to build a real estate empire upon taking the office. This sort of concern appears to be the direction of special coun-

This brings us to how Bill Clinton and Donald Trump are corrupted. For Trump, there is a real prospect that the sitting president is making public policy to advance his private interests. He declined to divest from his real estate empire upon taking the office. This sort of concern appears to be the direction of special coun-



sel Robert Mueller's investigation. He is now probing the influence of the United Arab Emirates on Trump's inner circle, though the inquiry was initiated to focus on Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. And while there is still the possibility of collusion between the Trump circle and the Russian state, so far the Trump administration's relatively tough policy record challenges the theory that Moscow got something in return for its electoral assistance.

The U.S. certainly must brace for the nightmare that Trump is monetizing his presidency. In at least one case, in fact, he is under scrutiny for accepting a cash donation to his charitable foundation from the same Ukrainian oligarch who has given millions of dollars to the Clinton Foundation since 2006.

Bill Clinton didn't cash in while in the White House, but his fundraising after leaving office has tarnished American politics nevertheless. In the case of Clinton, fundraising as an ex-president smelled particularly bad because his wife was a

senator and then secretary of state. She was also running for president in this period, both in 2008 and 2016.

To bring this full circle, The New York Times reported last week that Mueller is now investigating a 2015 contribution of \$150,000 from that oligarch, Victor Pinchuk, to Trump's charitable foundation in exchange for Trump appearing by video at a conference in Kiev. Pinchuk has also made contributions in excess of \$13 million to the Clinton Foundation. He attended a dinner for the foundation's donors with Hillary Clinton when she was secretary of state.

Trump's supporters have seized on this, implying that the obvious hypocrisy somehow excuses Trump. But that misses the point.

Twenty years ago, resurgent House Republicans impeached Clinton for lying under oath. And Democrats defended a president with the same sort of moral failings they insist make Trump unfit for office.

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg View columnist.

Ryan's exit gives Trump complete ownership of GOP

By ANDREW MALCOLM
Special to McClatchy

Paul Ryan essentially entered the nation's life on a humid Virginia Saturday in 2012, walking down the gangway of the old battleship Wisconsin as Republican candidate Mitt Romney announced his surprise selection as the vice presidential running mate.

The choice of the young, wonky Wisconsin representative was an uncharacteristically bold move by Romney. The presence of the powerful House Budget Committee chairman instantly thrust the role and size of federal government into the lackluster campaign, while energizing the conservative GOP base that had woefully watched weeks of unanswered Democratic attacks on the underfunded Romney.

The political partnership with Ryan, the main architect of the GOP's plans for tax and spending cuts and crucial entitlement reforms, added instant heat and gravitas to the campaign. And the presence of the 42-year-old Roman Catholic made an attractive contrast to Democratic leaders such as Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi, all in their 70s.

The announcement last week that Speaker Ryan would not seek an 11th House term was another landmark event for the

party of Lincoln, this one in the era of Donald Trump. Ryan's departure come January will mark the official closing of the era of pragmatism to President Donald Trump of complete ownership of the Republican Party, for better or worse.

A lifelong Democratic donor, Trump is no ideologue prepared to stand in the breach or anywhere really over conservative principles. He's a deal-making pragmatist, which is apparently what a sufficient number of voters in just the right places wanted in 2016. The recent budget deal, which Trump championed because it begins the immense rebuilding of U.S. military strength, proves that, with mounting annual deficits in excess of \$800 billion.

Ryan gave family time as a main reason for leaving Washington. "If I am here for one more term, my kids will only have known me as a weekend dad," said Ryan, who lost his own father as a teenager. Unlike many such exit explanations, that rings true.

Speaker is a major fundraising job. In 2015, when Ryan reluctantly agreed to head the House caucus and attempt to herd his party's undisciplined, feuding factions, he insisted on open weekends to be with family in their brick house in his hometown of Janesville, Wis.

Unlike most in Congress, Ryan has lived

the original intended life of a member. He didn't move to the District of Columbia and up representing Capitol Hill back to his district. He lives in Wisconsin's 1st and takes the message of its 715,000 residents to Washington every Monday. Which helps explain his 2016 re-election with 65 percent of the vote in a four-man race.

But hidden within his family talk is another cause, one that's also helped prompt some four dozen Republican members to leave the Hill after this term: the unpredictable, impulsive Oval Office occupant.

It took Trump and Ryan some time to endorse each other in 2016. Because nothing is ever Trump's fault, he blamed Ryan and GOP members for last year's legislative failures, including the persistent inability to repeal "Obamacare."

Those failures tanked Ryan's job approval, which were only now recovering. "Paul Ryan is retiring," said late-night host Jimmy Fallon. "He says that after 20 years in Congress, it's time to let someone else get nothing done."

For his part, asked about Trump's description of some African nations as out-house countries, Ryan pronounced that "unfortunate" and "unhelpful." But they did end up working together on tax cuts and the budget, albeit one that no doubt made Ryan wince fiscally.

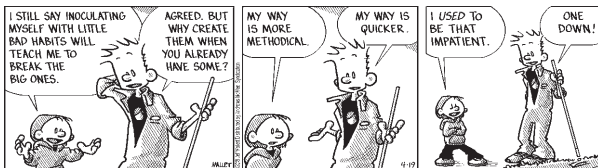
On Ryan's departure announcement, Trump tweeted, "We are with you Paul," calling him "a truly good man." Ryan's replacement as speaker, who if historical patterns hold, may well inherit the undesirable job of minority leader, will most likely be California's Rep. Kevin McCarthy. Trump likes him, at least this week.

Ryan is young enough to soon face three college tuitions for Samuel, Charles and Elizabeth. He vows no future employment talks with anyone until leaving office in January. Lobbying could be lucrative, but seems an unlikely path since it would require more D.C. commuting. And House rules prohibit that work for him before 2020.

More likely he'd join corporate boards requiring much less travel. Plus paid speeches and perhaps a book on his reform ideas and rise from lowly aide to Rep. Jack Kemp to second in line to the presidency. This would enable Ryan to be home most days when the kids return from school, when Wisconsin's sacred deer season opens in October and when his Packers play at home. Unlike Washington life today, all three are predictable.

Andrew Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s.

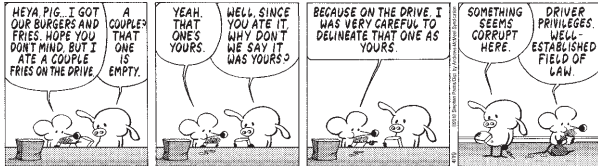
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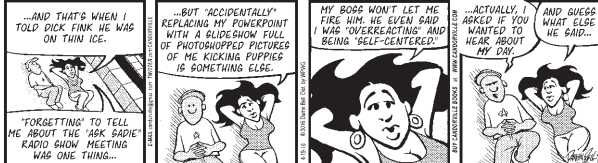
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



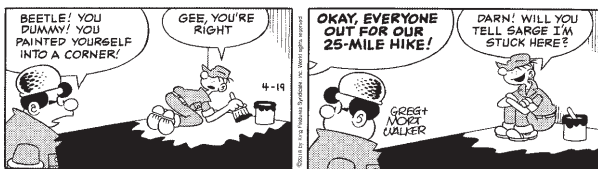
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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41	42							43		44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

ACROSS

- 1 "Believe" singer
5 Alger's "before"
9 LAPD alert
12 River to the

Seine

13 Caesar's "vidi"

14 Shade

15 Leader of

the pack

17 Flamenco cheer

18 Hermits

19 Pharaoh's land

21 @

22 Fact

24 Unruly kid

27 Hankering

28 Pack (down)

31 Gun the engine

32 Author Umberto

33 As well

34 Sir Guinness

36 Levy

37 Ticked (off)

38 Decorator's

theme

40 "Monopoly"

square

41 Baghdad

resident

43 Renter

47 Roofing goo

48 Black Sea region

51 Part of TNT

52 Trenches

53 Pop flavor

54 Verily

55 Out of control

56 Lose it

23 Strong as —

24 Bikini top

25 Seminary subj.

26 Catholic prayer

27 Bigfoot's cousin

29 Skier Tommy

30 Group of seals

35 — au vin

37 Elixirs

39 Pageant crown

40 Jewel

41 —-bitty

42 Exceptional

43 To-do list item

44 Unsigned (Abbr.)

45 The Big Easy

acronym

46 Golf hazard

49 Bottom line

50 Judge Lance

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	R	C	H	D	E	B	A	H	A	B
P	A	L	E	I	L	L	L	I	M	O
E	G	O	M	A	N	I	A	I	B	I
S	U	P	E	R	G	R	E	M	E	D
				N	I	B	E	V	E	R
E	T	A	D	A	B	A	N	N	O	Y
L	A	M	B	T	U	T	I	R	E	
S	T	A	R	S	N	O	S	A	B	S
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S	C	O	O	B	Y	L	O	O	K	A
H	A	N	D	I	N	S	O	M	N	I
E	R	I	E	N	E	E	P	E	D	I
D	E	A	D	G	O	T	H	E	A	L

4-19

CRYPTOQUIP

NSA ECDAX DCNS DCYNAV ZCY

WHN RLGNA EOCZOAY. SA

SCX DCXA CW AVVHV HW

DHVA NSCW HWA ARLNGHW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TWO ROCK GROUPS WERE TAKING TURNS TRYING TO PLAY MORE LOUDLY. IT WAS BAND-TO-BAND COMBAT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Q


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NBA PLAYOFFS



CHRAIG MITCHELL/LOVE/AF

Pelicans guard Jrue Holiday celebrates during the second half against the Trail Blazers on Tuesday. The Pelicans won 111-102.

Holiday, Rondo lift Pelicans to 2-0 lead

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Removed from the turbulence that marked his previous seasons in New Orleans, Jrue Holiday is in a good place — and it shows.

Holiday had a career playoff-high 33 points as the Pelicans took a 2-0 lead in their first-round series against the Portland Trail Blazers with a 111-102 victory on Tuesday night. The series shifts to New Orleans on Thursday.

Holiday struggled at times with injuries after coming to the Pelicans in 2013. Then in early 2016 he took a leave of absence when doctors discovered that his wife, former U.S. national soccer team player Lauren Holiday, had a brain tumor while she was pregnant with the couple's first child.

"He's been through some tough times, the first year he's injured, he's on minute restrictions through the greater part of the season, and then everybody's familiar with the situation with his wife and what he had to go through there," coach Alvin Gentry said. "Everybody's healthy and in a good place now so I think mentally he's in a good place."

Holiday played Tuesday night with emotion he did not often show earlier in his career. He agreed that it felt a weight has been lifted.

"My family's the most important thing to me, and with them being OK I can come back to the team freely and be able to help them out now," Holiday said. "It's been fun. I feel like my teammates and the organization definitely helped me out coming back

from things with my family, and even the injuries, with being able to play and being able to perform at the peak I'm performing."

Holiday also had nine assists for the Pelicans, while Rajon Rondo came close to his 11th postseason triple-double with had 16 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Anthony Davis added 22 points and 13 rebounds.

CJ McCollum, who struggled with backcourt teammate Damian Lillard in the opener, rebounded with 22 points to lead the Blazers.

Portland trailed by as many as 11 points in the third quarter but Lillard hit a three-pointer and added a free throw to tie the game at 93 with 7:51 left. Holiday's pull-up jumper and Rondo's driving layup kept the Blazers from pulling ahead.

Maurice Harkless dunked and Al-Farouq Aminu had a layup to re-tie the game at 97. After Holiday's hook shot, Harkless made a three-pointer to give Portland a 100-99 lead.

Nikola Mirotic and Holiday each hit three-pointers to put the Pelicans back in front 105-100 with 1:35 remaining and Portland couldn't catch up. Fans at the Moda Center boomed at the final buzzer.

Lillard finished with 17 points for the Blazers, who were hurt in the third quarter when starters Jusur Nurkic (left leg) and Evan Turner (right toe) left the game.

Lillard said he expected more out of himself.

"Coming into the playoffs, you know teams are going to lock in and they're going to try to make the game hard for you," he said.

Brown scores 30, Celtics roll

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

BOSTON — The Celtics knew they'd need their younger players to step up this postseason with Kyrie Irving sidelined.

They have, and it's added up to 2-0 lead in Boston's first-round matchup with Milwaukee.

Jaylen Brown had a playoff career-high 30 points, Terry Rozier added 23, and the Celtics pulled away in the second half for a 120-106 win over the Bucks on Tuesday night.

Game 3 is Friday in Milwaukee. Brown, who is in his second year, said the Celtics are feeling "confident as ever."

"People have been writing us off all year. And we just keep proving people wrong. So that's what we're gonna do," he said.

Milwaukee got as close as 107-97 with 4:13 to play. But the Celtics responded with an 11-2 run, capped by a banked in three-pointer by Brown to push their lead back up to 118-99.

Giannis Antetokounmpo finished with 30 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. Khris Middleton added 25 points.

"I think as a team we didn't show up tonight," Antetokounmpo said.

Turnovers were an issue for the second straight game for Milwaukee. The Bucks finished with 15, leading to 21 Boston points. They also shot just 41 percent from the free-throw line (7-for-17).

"They were 2-10 from the desperate team tonight again," Middleton said. "We started off



CHARLES KRUPA/AF

Celtics guard Jaylen Brown, right, drives to the basket against Bucks center Tyler Zeller during the first quarter on Tuesday.

poorly again. ... We've just got to more into it, got to be the more desperate, hungry team."

Boston had just three turnovers through three quarters. Rozier finished no turnovers for the second straight game.

"I've just got that confidence," Rozier said. "My teammates, my coach, they trust in me to get everything in their spots to run the

plays. ... I'm gonna do what I can to protect the ball and get my guys open."

The Celtics' bench also came up big, outscoring their Milwaukee counterparts 41-25. Marcus Morris led Boston's reserves with 18 points. Shane Larkin chipped in 11 points, scoring in double-digits for the first time in a playoff game.

Scoreboard

First round
(Best-of-7; x if necessary)

Eastern Conference
Tuesday, April 23, Washington 0
 Saturday, April 21, at Washington 105
Tuesday, Toronto 120, Washington 119
 Friday, at Washington
Sunday, at Washington
x-Tuesday, April 23, at Toronto
x-Sunday, April 22, at Toronto
Boston 121, Milwaukee 107, OT
 Saturday, April 21, at Indiana 106
 Friday, at Milwaukee, **AFN-Sports: 3:30 a.m. Saturday CET; 10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT**
Sunday, at Milwaukee
x-Tuesday, April 23, at Boston
x-Thursday, April 26, at Milwaukee
x-Saturday, April 28, at Boston
Philadelphia 130, Miami 103
 Monday, April 23, at Philadelphia 103
Thursday, at Miami, AFN-Sports: 1:30 a.m. Friday CET; 8 a.m. Friday JKT
Monday, April 23, at Philadelphia
x-Sunday, April 22, at Philadelphia
x-Thursday, April 26, at Miami
x-Saturday, April 28, at Philadelphia
Indiana 1, Cleveland 0
 Indiana 98, Cleveland 80
Wednesday, at Cleveland
Friday, at Indiana, AFN-Sports: 1 a.m. Saturday JKT
Sunday, at Indiana
x-Wednesday, April 25, at Cleveland
x-Friday, April 27, at Indiana
x-Sunday, April 29, at Cleveland
Western Conference
Houston 1, Minnesota 0
 Houston 104, Minnesota 101
Wednesday, at Houston
Saturday, at Minnesota
Monday, April 23, at Minnesota
x-Wednesday, April 25, at Houston
x-Friday, April 27, at Houston
x-Sunday, April 29, at Houston
Golden State 2, San Antonio 0
 Thursday, April 19, at San Antonio 32
 Golden State 113, San Antonio 101
Thursday, at San Antonio, AFN-Sports: 3:30 a.m. Friday CET; 10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT
Sunday, at San Antonio, 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 24, at Golden State
x-Thursday, April 26, at San Antonio
x-Saturday, April 28, at Golden State

New Orleans 2, Portland 0
 New Orleans 97, Portland 95
Tuesday, New Orleans 111, Portland 102
Thursday, at New Orleans
Saturday, April 21, at New Orleans
AFN-Sports: 11 p.m. Saturday CET; 6 a.m. Sunday JKT
x-Tuesday, April 24, at Portland
x-Thursday, April 26, at New Orleans
x-Saturday, April 28, at Portland
Oklahoma City 1, Utah 0
 Oklahoma City 116, Utah 108
Wednesday, at Oklahoma City
Saturday, at Utah, AFN-Sports: 4 a.m. Sunday CET; 11 a.m. Sunday JKT
Monday, April 23, at Utah
x-Thursday, April 26, at Oklahoma City
x-Friday, April 27, at Utah
x-Sunday, April 29, at Oklahoma City

Tuesday
Raptors 130, Wizards 119
WASHINGTON — Porter Jr. 5-10 2-12, Morris 3-7 0-6, Gortat 0-4 0-0 0, Wall 9-17 11-11 29, Beal 3-11 2-9, Oubre Jr. 6-11 1-2 14, Sateransky 1-2 1-2 3, Scott 7-10 2-20, Mahmini 4-4 4-5 12, Lawson 4-10 2-22 14, Totals 42-85-28-119.

TORONTO — Anunoby 2-3 4-5 9, Ibaka 4-11 1-10, Valanciunas 9-11 2-19, Lowry 3-10 6-7 13, DeRozan 14-23 6-8-37, Miles 5-7 4-4 18, Powell 0-0 0-0, Siakam 3-5 0-1 6, Poeltl 2-2 0-0 4, Nwankwo 0-1 0-0 0, Wright 3-9 4-4 11, Brown 1-2 0-0 3, VanVleet 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 45-87 27-33-130.

Washington 27 31 32 29-119
Toronto 44 32 24 30-130

Three-point Goals—Washington 10-22 (Lawson 4-5, Scott 4-5, Oubre Jr. 1-3, Beal 1-5, Wall 0-2, Morris 0-2), Toronto 13-35 (Miles 4-6, DeRozan 3-6, Anunoby 1-2, Brown 1-2, Valanciunas 1-2, Ibaka 1-3, Wright 1-4, Lowry 1-8, Powell 0-1, VanVleet 0-1), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Washington 34 (Oubre Jr. 5), Toronto 48 (Valanciunas 14), Assists—Washington 26 (Wall 9), Toronto 24 (Lowry 12), Total Fouls—Washington 24, Toronto 27, Technicals—Toronto coach Raptors (Defensive three second), A—20,242 (138,900).

Pelicans 111, Trail Blazers 102
NEW ORLEANS — Moore 3-9 1-4 8, Mirotic 6-11 2-2 17, A.Davis 9-18 3-5 32, Rondo 6-11 2-2 17, Holiday 14-24 3-4 33, Millard 4-0 0-0 8, Hill 1-2 2-4, Dially 0-0 0-0 0, Clark 1-5 0-0 3, Totals 43-84 13-19-111.

PORTLAND — Turner 0-6 0-0 0, Aminu 5-10 0-0 14, Nurkic 5-12 3-14, Lillard 7-18 2-2 17, McCollum 9-21 1-2 22, Harkless 5-5 0-0 11, E.Davis 2-3 0-0 4, Collins 2-11 0-0 12, Baldwin IV 0-0 0-0 0, Cunningham 3-5 2-2 8, Totals 41-88 18-102.

New Orleans 25 29 33 24-111
Portland 23 26 19 24-102

Three-point Goals—New Orleans 12-24 (Mirotic 3-7, Miller 2-2, Rondo 2-3, Holiday 2-3, Clark 1-2, A.Davis 1-2, Moore 1-3), Portland 12-32 (Aminu 4-6, McCollum 3-8, Collins 2-7, Harkless 1-1, Cunningham 3-8), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—New Orleans 43 (A.Davis 13), Portland 45 (Aminu 15), Assists—New Orleans 25 (Rondo, Holiday 5), Portland 20 (McCollum 6), Total Fouls—New Orleans 17, Portland 20, A—20,656 (19,393).

Celtics 120, Bucks 106
MILWAUKEE — Middleton 10-14 1-4 25, Antetokounmpo 13-17 4-9 30, Henson 6-7 0-0 12, Bledsoe 5-13 0-0 12, Snell 1-3 0-0 2, Parker 0-2 0-0 0, Zeller 0-0 0-0 0, Maker 0-2 0-0 0, Terry 0-0 0-0 0, Dellavedova 0-0 0-0 0, Brodson 5-7 0-0 10, S.Brown 2-4 0-0 4, Muhammad 4-8 2-4 11, Totals 46-77 17-106.

BOSTON — Tatum 2-9 0-0 4, Horford 7-11 2-11, Barnes 3-6 0-0 0, Rozier 8-14 4-23, I.Brown 12-22 1-12, Nader 0-0 0-0 0, Ojeleye 0-0 0-0 0, Yabusele 0-2 0-0 0, Morris 3-7 0-0 0, Larkin 1-3 0-0 0, Larkin 5-8 0-0 11, Totals 48-90 11-18-120.

Milwaukee 22 29 24 31-106
Boston 33 27 39 39-120

Three-point Goals—Milwaukee 7-17 (Middleton 4-6, Bledsoe 2-4, Muhammad 1-1), Brodson 0-1, Antetokounmpo 0-1, Maker 0-1, Snell 0-1, S.Brown 0-2, Boston 13-36 (I.Brown 5-12, Rozier 3-5, Morris 3-6, Horford 1-1, Larkin 1-3, Yabusele 0-2, Tatum 0-2), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Milwaukee 36 (Antetokounmpo 9), Boston 38 (Tatum 7), Assists—Milwaukee 19 (Antetokounmpo 8), Boston 24 (Rozier 8), Total Fouls—Milwaukee 15, Boston 16, Technicals—Bledsoe, Maker, Rozier, A—18,624 (18,624).

NBA PLAYOFFS/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan, front, is embraced by Toronto-born rapper Drake as he returns to the bench during the final minutes on Tuesday against the Wizards in Toronto. The Raptors won 130-111.

DeRozan, Raptors roll over Wizards

By IAN HARRISON
Associated Press

TORONTO — DeMar DeRozan's big game put the Toronto Raptors in a place they've never been before: up 2-0 in a playoff series.

DeRozan matched his career playoff-high with 37 points, James Valanciunas had 19 points and 14 rebounds and the Raptors beat the Washington Wizards 130-119 on Tuesday night as Toronto took a 2-0 lead in a playoff series for the first time in franchise history.

"I didn't go out there trying to score 37 points, I went out there to be aggressive," DeRozan said.

Kyle Lowry had 13 points and a career playoff-high 12 assists as Toronto set team playoff records for points in a quarter, a half and a game.

C.J. Miles scored 18, Delon Wright had 11 and Serge Ibaka 10 for the Raptors, who snapped an NBA-worst 10-game losing streak in Game 1 with a 114-106 win on Saturday.

DeRozan, whose 37th point came on a friendly roll on a fourth-quarter free throw, equalled his total from Game 3 of the second round against Cleveland last year.

It was his 12th career 30-point game in the postseason. The Raptors are 9-3 in those games.

"I thought DeMar was super on the offensive end," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "We needed every point. He did an excellent job of reading what the defense was doing to him and making them pay."

Lowry called DeRozan "an MVP-type caliber player."

DeRozan missed his first two shots but connected on 14 of his final 21 attempts, including three of six from long range. He also converted a four-point play.

"When he's making three's, he's very tough to guard," Washington's John Wall said of DeRozan.

Toronto, which made a team playoff record 16 three-pointers Saturday, connected on 13 of 35 from long range in Game 2, making only two in the second half.

Wall scored 29 points, Mike Scott had a career playoff-high 20 and Ty Lawson 14 for the Wizards, who host Game 3 on Friday night.

"We're the team that's in the hole, we're the team that's desperate, but we have a lot of confidence," Wall said. "We're not down on ourselves at all."

Commissioners confident of 'impactful outcome'

ACC, SEC chiefs expect Rice-led committee to deliver

By JOEY MCCREARY
Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner John Swofford says he expects "substantive" recommendations from the committee seeking ways to reform college basketball amid a federal investigation of corruption in the sport.

Speaking Tuesday at a regional Associated Press Sports Editors meeting, Swofford said he doesn't



Swofford

know what the commission led by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will conclude next week when it is expected to present its report to the Division I Board of Directors and Board of Governors.

Swofford said it is "hard to argue against the need for substantive change."

Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey, speaking at a similar meeting in Birmingham, Ala., on Monday, hopes for an "impactful outcome" when Rice's committee releases its recommendations.

The FBI's corruption probe led to criminal charges against assistant coaches, agents, apparel company employees and others. The Justice Department arrested 10 people, including four assistant coaches from Arizona, Southern California, Auburn and Oklahoma State, in a case tied to hundreds of thousands of dollars in alleged bribes and kickbacks designed to influence recruits on choosing a school or an agent.

Sankey said the investigation received "an appropriate level of concern and attention" during the season.

"I did not mean and would not



GERRY BROOME/AP

North Carolina State's Dennis Smith Jr. drives to the basket against Duke on Jan. 23, 2017. The ACC school is one of the latest to become swept up in the FBI's corruption probe.

"I did not mean and would not imply that I think it's just business as usual," Sankey said. "I've seen some observations that, 'Oh wow, we're just back to business as usual.' I don't think that's the case. I don't (get) that sense from our programs and programs nationally."

"I don't think there's a time when you can settle in and say, 'OK, everything's fine. We're moving forward,'" he added. "I think the attention's been raised and the attention will be raised again when that report is released. And then there will probably be a lot of new work in determining how we meet whatever new expectations may exist."

In a big-picture sense, Swofford also called it "aggravating" for a conference commissioner to have the members involved in any type of investigation.

North Carolina State was one of the latest schools to become swept up in it, with prosecutors

last week accusing an Adidas representative, who no longer works for the company, of agreeing to funnel \$40,000 through an unidentified coach to the father of former player Dennis Smith Jr. The scandal also led to Rick Pitino's ouster at Louisville before the season.

Swofford said having schools involved in an investigation is "the last thing, from my chair, you want to see, and it's the thing that upsets me the most, aggravates me the most."

"So when you have all those emotions tied to it, you need to find a way to do something positive," he added. "I think college basketball is so good, even with its current problems, that it will be resilient. I think it will come out of this better and hopefully stronger than ever... It might not be fun getting there."

AP Sports Writers Aaron Beard in Greensboro and John Zeman in Birmingham, Ala., contributed to this report.

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MLB

Red Sox oust Ohtani early, wallop Angels

Betts hits three home runs to power Boston

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Shohei Ohtani developed a blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand nine days ago during his second start for the Los Angeles Angels.

The rookie right-hander thought it had healed enough for him to pitch effectively when he took the mound again Tuesday night in front of a sellout crowd eager to see Ohtani's next incredible feat.

Instead, the blister and the powerful Boston Red Sox were far too much for him.

Mookie Betts led off with the first of his three homers, and the Red Sox chased Ohtani after just two innings in a 10-1 victory over the Angels.

Ohtani (2-1) yielded four hits and three runs on 66 pitches before exiting with a blister on his pitching hand. The two-way Japanese sensation couldn't throw his breaking pitches for strikes, and the Red Sox jumped on him, starting with Betts' full-count homer on a low, 97 mph fastball.

"The stuff is there," Betts said of Ohtani. "He's got it all. But our team, we had a good approach tonight. He wasn't able to land that splitter for strikes, and we did a good job laying off it and backing him into a corner where he probably had to throw a couple of pitches he didn't want to throw."

Ohtani has had intermittent issues with blisters during the past few months, and

he had a bandage on one of his fingers last week.

"I felt like it would be fine today, (but) in the high intensity of a game, it didn't hold up too well," Ohtani said through a translator. "But I'm not going to be at the top of my game every start. When I don't have my best stuff, I still have to fight through the game."

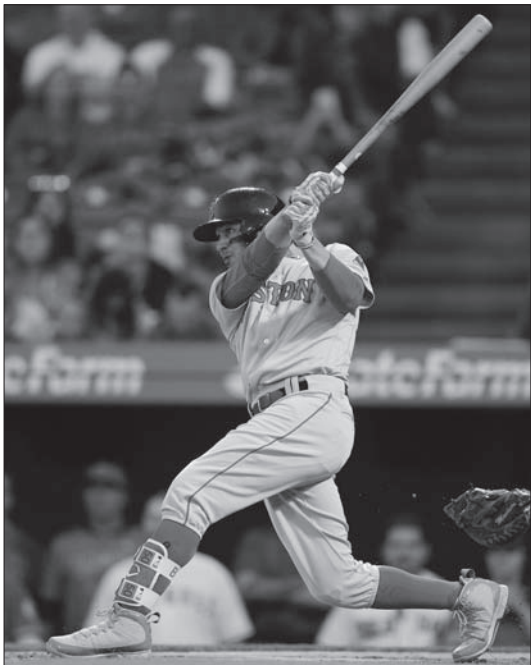
Ohtani's fastball still hit 99 mph during his first career night start, but the evening began poorly when Betts cracked his 12th career leadoff homer.

Ohtani allowed another single and threw a wild pitch in the first inning. Betts drew the only walk issued by Ohtani during the second inning despite mostly dismal control. Boston scored two more runs on Holt's RBI single and Andrew Benintendi's sacrifice fly.

"That wasn't the same split as his last outing," Boston manager Alex Cora said.

Jackie Bradley Jr., Brock Holt and Betts each homered in the third inning after Ohtani departed, and Rafael Devers homered in the fourth. Betts hit his third solo shot in the seventh inning, matching his career best while Boston's formidable lineup pounded out 15 hits in its fifth consecutive victory.

"You've got to ride the wave," Cora said. "We're playing good baseball, but they don't even know how many games they're winning. They just prepare and execute."



JAE C. HONG/AP

The Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts follows through on a solo home run off Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani during the first inning of Tuesday's game in Anaheim, Calif. Betts hit three home runs in Boston's 10-1 victory.

Roundup

Lindor homers as Indians top Twins in Puerto Rico

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Francisco Lindor homered in his native Puerto Rico, Corey Kluber allowed one run in 6½ innings and the Cleveland Indians beat the Minnesota Twins 6-1 on Tuesday night.

Playing as a big leaguer in Puerto Rico for the first time, Lindor connected on a two-run home run to open the scoring.

And yes, the moment was just as the All-Star shortstop imagined.

"I love the Cleveland Indians fans. I love them. They're supporters, big-time," Lindor said. "But this is where I grew up. These are my people. It's extremely special."

Michael Brantley and Jose Ramirez each had three hits, including consecutive homers in the sixth, for Cleveland.

Kluber (2-1) gave up five hits and struck out six, lowering his ERA to 1.52.

Lindor and Minnesota's Eddie Rosario were the Puerto Ricans in the lineup, and favorites of the sold-out crowd of 19,516.

"I'm pleased that my country came out to support us," Rosario said. "Great emotions to be here. Happy that we're here."



CARLOS GIUSTI/AP

The Cleveland Indians' Francisco Lindor celebrates a home run against the Minnesota Twins during the fifth inning of Tuesday's game at Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The series was scheduled before Hurricane Maria hit last September. The recovery from the storm has been the focus of this trip for the Twins and Indians.

"These people need to cheer," Lindor said.

Diamondbacks 1, Giants 0: Patrick Corbin lost his no-hit bid on a checked-swing infield single

with two outs in the eighth inning but finished a one-hitter to lift host Arizona.

Blue Jays 11-5, Royals 3-4: Luke Maile singled down the right-field line off Brian Flynn (0-1) with the bases loaded in the 10th inning to help host Toronto complete a doubleheader sweep of Kansas City.

Marlins 9, Yankees 1: Making his season debut after coming off the disabled list, J.T. Realmuto hit a three-run homer off Masahiro Tanaka (2-2) in the fifth inning and drove in four runs to lead visiting Miami past New York.

Tigers 4, Orioles 2: Victor Martinez homered for the first time since Aug. 18, a two-run drive in the second off Andrew Cashner (1-2), and host Detroit stopped a five-game losing streak.

Dodgers 7, Padres 3 (12): Yasmani Grandal hit a go-ahead, two-run double with one out in the 12th inning and visiting Los Angeles overcame Kenley Jansen's blown save to beat San Diego for its season-high third straight win.

Astros 4, Mariners 1: Lance McCullers Jr. (2-1) matched his career high with 11 strikeouts over seven innings of one-hit ball and Brian McCann hit a tiebreaking two-run home run off reliever Dan Altavilla (1-2) to lead visiting Houston past Seattle.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 3: Adam Wainwright (1-2) outpitched Tyler Chatwood in frigid conditions at Wrigley Field, leading St. Louis past Chicago.

Rockies 2, Pirates 0: Chad

Bettis (3-0) allowed five hits in 7½ innings and combined with three relievers on a five-hitter on a snowy night to lead visiting Colorado past Pittsburgh.

Rangers 7, Rays 2: Matt Moore (1-3) allowed an unearned run and five hits over seven innings and struck out six to lead visiting Texas past Tampa Bay.

Nationals 5, Mets 2: Gio Gonzalez (2-1) allowed two runs in 5½ innings and improved to 11-1 at Citi Field as Washington topped New York.

Brewers 2, Reds 0: Eric Thames hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Sal Romano (0-2) to lead host Milwaukee past Cincinnati.

Phillies 5, Braves 1: Rhys Hoskins hit a tiebreaking, two-out, two-run double off Jose Ramirez (0-2) in the 10th and Maxed Franco added another two-run double to lead visiting Philadelphia past Atlanta.

Athletics 10, White Sox 2: Jed Lowrie marked his 34th birthday with a home run off Miguel Gonzalez (0-3) in a five-run first inning and Trevor Cahill (1-0) pitched seven scoreless innings in his season debut to lead host Oakland past Chicago.

NFL/NHL PLAYOFFS/SPORTS BRIEFS

McCarron unfazed Bills discussing QB

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — AJ McCarron couldn't help notice the number of draft-eligible quarterback prospects the Buffalo Bills have paraded through their facility in recent days.

UCLA's Josh Allen was in town Monday. Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield visited last week.

McCarron acknowledged Tuesday he stopped to chat with some of the former college players to see how they're holding up through the process.

And yet, their presence — and the possibility of Buffalo selecting one of them in the first round of the draft next week — won't distract McCarron from focusing on the reason he signed with the Bills in free agency last month after spending his first four NFL seasons backing up Andy Dalton in Cincinnati.

The Bills have an opening for a starter after trading Tyrod Taylor to Cleveland this offseason, and it's McCarron's objective to fill the job.

"As quarterback, you've got to have that confidence and you've got to take that approach to it, because if you don't, you're already a step behind," McCarron said after completing the second day of Buffalo's voluntary offseason conditioning program.

He's started bonding with his new teammates over dinner, by exchanging texts and is already making plans to spend time working out together before the start of training camp.

"That's the way I've always done it," McCarron said. "I mean, even in Cincy, I knew how to do it and not step on AD's (Andy Dalton's) toes."

And forget about him paying attention to what the Bills do in the draft with their nine selections, including two first-rounders at No. 12 and 22.

"I can't worry about it because it creates mental clutter for myself," McCarron said. "So for me to worry about ifs and what could happen, it's just not part of my DNA. I've never been that way and won't



JOHN WAWROW/AP

Bills quarterback A.J. McCarron speaks to the media Tuesday in Orchard Park, N.Y.

ever do it."

General manager Brandon Beane has provided no hints regarding his draft plans. Beane said a GM's primary responsibility is finding a franchise quarterback. And yet, Beane would also consider this year's draft a success should the Bills not select a quarterback.

McCarron and Nathan Peterman are the only two quarterbacks on the roster, with both having very limited NFL experience.

A two-time national champion at Alabama, McCarron appeared in just 11 games with Cincinnati, mostly in mop-up duties. He started four games, including an 18-16 loss to Pittsburgh in a 2016 AFC wild-card playoff in which the Bengals squandered a one-point lead in the final seconds as a result of a turnover and two penalties.

Peterman proved he wasn't ready to be a starter as a rookie last season. The fifth-round pick out of Pittsburgh was yanked after throwing five interceptions in the first half of his first career start in a 54-24 loss at the Los Angeles Chargers in November.

Much like McCarron, Peterman isn't worried whether the Bills draft a quarterback.

"It's all above my head," Peterman said. "You can't be focused on the things you can't control because it wouldn't be very productive."

Sweep: Fleury gets second shutout for Golden Knights

FROM BACK PAGE

when we got him," Vegas coach Gerard Gallant said. "He has playoff experience and he's been a part of three Cups and he makes us better. LA put on the pressure on him but he was huge for us."

The Knights became the second team to win their first four playoff games, joining the 1970 Pittsburgh Penguins.

McNabb scored from the right circle, beating Jonathan Quick's glove, at 4:04 of the second for his first career playoff goal. The Kings left the defenseman exposed in last year's expansion draft and the Knights snapped him up.

The Kings pulled Quick in the closing seconds, when Dustin Brown skated straight toward the net and just missed.

"That's what the playoffs are all about. It's so close," Kings center Anze Kopitar said. "It's not like we were blown out of the water."

Brown also hit the left post with 10 minutes to go in the third, typical of the close calls that failed to generate goals for the Kings in the series. They outshot the Knights 31-21 in the game.

"It was crazy in the final minute of the game. They were buzzing around," Fleury said. "We had to keep pushing to the very end."

Facing elimination, the Kings came out aggressively and outshot the Knights 14-8 in the opening period. Quick stopped two shots on goal during the only power play in the period when Adrian Kempe was sent off for hooking.

"I thought our hockey team got better through the series," first-year Kings coach John Stevens

'We knew we were getting a superstar when we got him.'

Golden Knights coach on goalie Marc-Andre Fleury

said. "Tonight was our best game and created the most quality chances, just didn't finish off."

Quick made 20 saves and allowed seven goals in the series, but he and the Kings couldn't duplicate the rally they pulled off in 2014. Los Angeles lost its first three games to the Sharks in the first round that year and went on to win the series and eventually the Stanley Cup.

"We just got knocked out of the playoffs. I don't care what the score was," defenseman Alec Martinez said. "It's a lot of disappointment in this room. We can't forget how this feels." Vegas, the third expansion team since 1968-69 to clinch a playoff berth, awaits the winner of the series between Anaheim and San Jose, which the Sharks led 3-0.

The Kings managed just three goals in the series and lacked offensive punch from Kopitar (one goal) and wingers Brown and Tyler Toffoli (no goals).

Brown fired a team-high six shots in the game, while Toffoli had three and Brown two.

Toffoli took a puck to the face, drawing blood from his nose to his mouth. He got stitches and returned 10 minutes later.

Briefly

Alvarez suspended 6 months

From wire reports

LAS VEGAS — Nevada boxing regulators suspended Canelo Alvarez on Wednesday for six months for doping violations.

Alvarez also must undergo drug tests. No fine was recommended because past ones have been based on future promises. With Alvarez's May 5 rematch with Gennady Golovkin canceled, there is no forthcoming purse.

Caroline Bateman, a Nevada deputy attorney general, suggested a punishment of six months from the date of Alvarez's first positive test, on Feb. 17.

Bateman said Alvarez has been cooperative since testing positive, which was a contributing factor in handing down a punishment less than the standard disciplinary sanction of one year.

Alvarez was supposed to face Golovkin for his unified middleweight title next month at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, but the fight was called off after the commission issued a complaint against

Alvarez for testing positive to the banned performance-enhancing drug clenbuterol in his hometown of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Alvarez blamed contaminated beef for his positive test.

Olympian Wieber suing MSU, USA Gymnastics

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Olympic gold medalist Jordyn Wieber is the latest gymnast to sue Michigan State University, USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic Committee over former sports doctor Larry Nassar's sexual abuse.

Wieber was on the "Fierce Five" team that won gold in 2012. She filed a lawsuit in California Tuesday alleging Michigan State and former USA Gymnastics leaders hid Nassar's conduct from the public and law enforcement. She says the abuse spanned between 2006 and 2012, her medical records were destroyed, and she and her teammates "were not protected."

More than 250 women and girls say Nassar sexually assaulted them under the guise of treatment. He's now in prison.

Accusers include three other members of the 2012 team — Aly Raisman, Gabby Douglas and McKayla Maroney.

FIFA member arrested in Congo for corruption

FIFA Council member Constant Omari has been arrested on suspicion of corruption and was being held Wednesday in a public prosecutor's office in his home country of Congo and questioned for alleged involvement in embezzlement money.

Omari, the president of the Congo soccer federation, was arrested along with two other federation officials and a government sports ministry official.

The four were being questioned on suspicion of embezzlement of money given to the federation by the government to fund the Congo national team.



ROBERT GAUTHIER, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Vegas Golden Knights goalie Marc-Andre Fleury, left, defends the net as the Los Angeles Kings' Dustin Brown, second from right, tries to deflect the puck in the first period during Game 4 of their first-round playoff series Tuesday at Staples Center in Los Angeles. Fleury had two shutouts in the series, and 31 saves on Tuesday.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

First round

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Tampa Bay 2, New Jersey 1
Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 2
Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 3
New Jersey 5, Tampa Bay 2
Wednesday at New Jersey
Saturday at Tampa Bay
x-Monday, April 23 at New Jersey
x-Wednesday, April 25 at New Jersey
Boston 2, Toronto 1
Boston 5, Toronto 1
Boston 7, Toronto 3
Toronto 4, Boston 2
Thursday at Toronto
Saturday at Boston
x-Thursday, April 26 at Toronto
x-Wednesday, April 25 at Boston
Columbus 2, Washington 1
Columbus 4, Washington 3, OT
Columbus 5, Washington 4 OT
Tuesday Washington 3, Columbus 2

20T
Thursday at Columbus
APN Sports 1:30 a.m. Friday CET; 8:30 a.m. Friday JKT

Saturday at Washington
x-Monday, April 23 at Columbus
x-Wednesday, April 25 at Washington
Pittsburgh 2, Philadelphia 1
Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 0
Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 1
Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 1
Wednesday at Philadelphia
Friday at Pittsburgh
x-Sunday, April 22 at Philadelphia
x-Thursday, April 24 at Pittsburgh

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Nashville 2, Colorado 1
Nashville 5, Colorado 2
Nashville 5, Colorado 4
Colorado 5, Nashville 3
Wednesday at Colorado
Friday at Nashville
x-Sunday, April 22 at Colorado
x-Tuesday, April 24 at Nashville
Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 1
Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 2
Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 1
Minnesota 6, Winnipeg 2
Tuesday Winnipeg 2, Minnesota 0
Friday at Winnipeg
x-Sunday, April 22 at Minnesota
x-Wednesday, April 25 at Winnipeg
Vegas 4, Los Angeles 0
Vegas 6, Los Angeles 0
Vegas 2, Los Angeles 1, 2OT
Vegas 3, Los Angeles 2
Tuesday at Los Angeles
San Jose 3, Anaheim 0
San Jose 3, Anaheim 1
San Jose 3, Anaheim 2
San Jose 8, Anaheim 1
Friday at San Jose
x-Thursday, April 21 at San Jose
x-Tuesday, April 24 at Anaheim

Tuesday Jets 2, Wild 0

Winnipeg 1 0 1 0 2
Wild 0 0 0 0 0
Period 1— Winnipeg, Scheifele 2 (Morrisey, Connor), 19:32.
Third Period— Winnipeg, Scheifele 3 (Coop, Wheeler), 19:49.
Shots on Goal— Winnipeg 7-12-9—28.
Goals— Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 3 (30 shots-30 saves). Minnesota, Dubnyk 1-1 (27-26).
A—19,277 (18,064). **T—**2:24.

Capitals 3, Blue Jackets 2 (2OT)

Washington 0 2 0 0 1-3
Columbus 0 0 0 1 0-2
Second Period—1, Washington, Wilson 1 (Niskanen, Ovechkin), 5:52. 2, Columbus, Dubois 1 (Panarin, Jones), 11:18. 3, Washington, Carlson 1 (Ovechkin, Backstrom), 14:43 (pp).
Third Period—4, Columbus, Panarin 2 (Atkinson), 4:12.
Overtime—5, Washington, Eller 1 (Connolly, Smith-Pelly), 9:00.
Shots on Goal—Washington 11-14-6-6.
Goals—Washington, Hellebuyck 3 (30 shots-30 saves). Columbus, Bobrovsky 2 (45-42).
A—19,337 (18,500). **T—**3:52.

Golden Knights 1, Kings 0

Vegas 0 1 0 0-1
Los Angeles 0 0 0 0-0
Second Period—1, Vegas, McElhinney 1 (Smith, Karlsson), 4:04.
Shots on Goal—Vegas 8-7-6-21. Los Angeles 14-7-10-31.
Power-play opportunities—Vegas 0 of 1; Los Angeles 0 of 2.
Goals—Vegas, Fleury 4 (21 shots-31 saves). Los Angeles, Quattrone 1 (21-20).
A—18,422 (18,330). **T—**2:28.

Calendar

April 28 — NHL Draft lottery, Toronto.
May 27-June 2 — NHL Draft scouting combine, Buffalo.
June 13 — Last possible day of Stanley Cup Final.
June 23 — NHL Draft, Dallas.
July 1 — Free agency signing period opens.

Caps win in 2OT, avoid deep hole

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Washington Capitals needed a lucky bounce to finally get an overtime win in Game 3 in their intense first-round playoff series with the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Lars Eller got the last stick on a puck that bounced off him and Columbus defenseman Zach Werenski before rolling past Sergei Bobrovsky, and Washington got the 3-2 victory nine minutes into the second overtime Tuesday night.

The Capitals won at Nationwide Arena after Columbus won the first two games — both in overtime — in Washington. It was the Capitals' turn to prevail in OT, this time on the Blue Jackets' home ice, to pull to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

"It means a ton, a win like this after playing for that long," Eller said. "I'm sure they feel a lot more tired in that room than we are feeling right now. It gives you a lot of energy. It's going to be a battle again in Game 4."

Tom Wilson and John Carlson also scored, and Braden Holtby stopped 33 shots for the Capitals, who were in danger of falling into a nearly insurmountable hole had they let the game slip away.

"We got some good fortune, but we also executed and we were committed today," Capitals coach Barry Trotz said.

Game 4 is Thursday night back here with Game 5 set for Washington on Saturday.

"We got a break, it's what we needed," Capitals forward John Connolly said. "You need breaks, every team is so good now, you need to keep pressing and pressing."

Pierre-Luc Dubois and Artemi Panarin scored for Columbus, and Bobrovsky finished with 42



PAUL VERNON/AP

Washington Capitals forward Tom Wilson, left, hits Blue Jackets forward Pierre-Luc Dubois with his stick during the first period of Game 3 of their first-round playoff series Tuesday in Columbus, Ohio. Wilson was called for a high-sticking penalty on the play, but the Blue Jackets failed to score on the power play.

saves after getting 54 in Game 2 on Sunday.

Panarin knotted the score 4:12 into the third period after he and Cam Atkinson went back and forth with pinpoint passes before he swiped it past Holtby from the left circle.

That's the way it stayed until the puck down the ice.

After a scoreless first period, Wilson got credit for the first Washington goal when he deflected Matt Niskanen's rising shot 5:52 into the second. The Blue Jackets got a break two minutes later when a goal by Connolly was waved off after a video replay showed he was offside bringing the puck down the ice.

Dubois tied it with 8:42 left in the second when he rifled a shot past Holtby's glove from the right circle.

Later in the period, with Columbus' Brandon Dubinsky and Ryan Murray both in the penalty box for slashing, Carlson connected with 5:17 left on a one-timer 28 seconds into the 5-on-3.

Jets blank Wild, forge 3-1 lead in series

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Connor Hellebuyck bounced back in a big way, just as the Winnipeg Jets were expecting.

The 24-year-old goalie turned aside every shot Minnesota could muster, shoving the Wild to the brink of elimination.

Mark Scheifele scored both goals for Winnipeg and Hellebuyck made 30 saves for his seventh shutout this season, as the Jets beat the Wild 2-0 on Tuesday night to take a 3-1 lead in the first-round playoff series.

"You knew, five to 10 minutes into that game, he was right and feeling good," Jets coach Paul Maurice said.

Scheifele scored with 28 seconds left in the first period, spoiling a fine performance on the other end by Wild goalie Devan Dubnyk, and tacked on an empty-netter with 11 seconds remaining.



JIM MONE/AP

The Wild's Nick Seeler, center, assists goalie Devan Dubnyk, right, as he tries to keep the Winnipeg Jets' Paul Stastny away from the goal crease during the first period of Game 4 of their first-round playoff series Tuesday in St. Paul, Minn. The Jets won 2-0.

The Wild, now without star left wing Zach Parise because of a broken sternum suffered late in

Game 3, must now win in Winnipeg in Game 5 on Friday night to extend their season.

"Certainly can't fault us in trying. It's a disappointing finish," said Dubnyk, who stopped 26 shots. "It just shows you, too, you never know which plays are going to be the difference in the game."

The Wild were livid about one in particular, when Jets defenseman Josh Morrissey delivered a vicious-looking cross-check to Eric Staal's neck that knocked Minnesota's leading scorer to the ice during a Wild power play and went unnoticed by the officials. Morrissey had an assist on Scheifele's goal and also helped thwart a Wild breakthrough later in the game, and a red-faced coach Bruce Boudreau said afterward that Morrissey should have been ejected.

"They decided not to call it because we were already on the power play," Boudreau said. "It cost us the game."

Across the hall, Morrissey adamantly defended his action as accidental.

SPORTS



BoSox blister Ohtani

Rookie sensation chased after just two innings » **MLB, Page 29**

NHL PLAYOFFS



ROBERT GAUTHIER, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

The Vegas Golden Knights' Brayden McNabb, right, celebrates with Jonathan Marchessault after scoring a second-period goal against the Los Angeles Kings during Game 4 of their first-round playoff series Tuesday at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Vegas cashes in with sweep

Suprising expansion Golden Knights make history by ousting Kings in first round

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Golden Knights want a Stanley Cup title to conclude their already amazing inaugural season in the NHL.

Vegas is on its way, beating the Los An-

geles Kings 1-0 on Tuesday night and becoming the first expansion team in league history to sweep its first playoff series.

"All season long, I didn't know any records about expansion teams," goalie Marc-Andre Fleury said. "We just do what a regular team would, we just play the game and try to win. That's it."

Brayden McNabb scored against his former team in the second period and Fleury stopped 31 shots as the Knights finished off their fourth one-goal victory of the series. It was the goalie's second shutout of the playoffs.

"I didn't picture this happening, me scoring a goal against the Kings," McNabb

said. "but it feels real good to get this win and finish this series."

The Knights poured into the net to hug Fleury at the final horn. Vegas fans in the crowd chanted the goalie's name in celebration.

"We knew we were getting a superstar

SEE SWEEP ON PAGE 30

Holiday, Rondo give Pelicans 2-0 lead » **NBA playoffs, Page 26**

